THE NEW
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TN Chief Minister MK Stalin being welcomed by the people of The Nilgiris on Sunday

PM must allay TN's fears over delimitation: Stalin

Udhagamandalam: PM Narendra Modi should allay the fears of people of Tamil Nadu surrounding the delimitation exercise, TN CM MK Stalin said on Sunday. Modi should also ensure that a resolution is passed in Parliament to make sure the rights of TN are not curbed, he said. "This (delimitation) not only leads to a reduction of Parliamentary seats, it is our right to ask and at the same time, it is also a cause of worry about our future," he said | P5

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Leadership That Delivers. Performance That Inspires.

Another remarkable year for KSDL with outstanding results in 2024-25

Shri. M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, and **Shri. Appaji C.S. Nadagouda**, Hon'ble MLA & Chairman, KSDL, presenting new products of KSDL to Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri. Siddaramaiah**.

STRONG LEADERSHIP.

Sharp Focus. Phenomenal Growth.

For over a century, **Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited (KSDL)** has been a symbol of purity, tradition, and excellence - best known for the iconic Mysore Sandal Soap. Today, through focused leadership, it is not just preserving its rich legacy - it is setting benchmarks in growth, innovation, and public sector performance.

Net Profit

Turnover Growth

2022–23	₹1,375 Cr
2023–24	₹1,571 Cr
2024–25	₹1,788 Cr

What's Driving the Growth

- **Production Efficiency**
  Over **110%** achievement across all years
- **Exports**
  Present in **25** countries,
  targeting **80** countries by **2026**
- The company achieved a **29% CAGR** over five years and delivered the highest profit in its history.
- Launch of **Mysore Sandal Wave Series:** premium soaps, pooja items, agarbathis, sambrani, lamp oil, packaged water

Key Highlights

- **Turnover up by ₹412 Cr in 2 years**
- **Net Profit more than doubled**
- **Dividends more than doubled**
- **Daily output: 1.8 million soaps**
- **Soaps account** for **70%** of total production
- **Grow More Sandalwood:** Partnered with **713+** farmers across **3,813 acres** for commercial cultivation
- Partnering with **e-commerce platforms** to drive **₹100 Cr** annual sales online
- Organizing the **'Mysore Sandal Soap Mela'** across the state to enhance reach and promotions

Product Diversification

New launches include:

- 7 hand sanitizer variants
- 5 hand wash products
- 3 shower gels
- 10 new soap grades
- Aqua Mineral Water

Vision 2030

- Targeting **₹5,000 Cr turnover by 2030**
- New production unit in **Vijayapura**
- **Higher exports** and an expanding presence in the North-East, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Jammu & Kashmir.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

A big thank you to all the workers, unions, staff, officers, General Manager-Administration, General Manager-Finance, for their valuable contributions to this wonderful achievement of the organization.

Dr. S. Selvakumar, IAS, Principal Secretary
Department of Industries & Commerce

Dr. Prashanth PKM, IFS, Managing Director
Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd.

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 07.04.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uttarayana
• **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Sukla • **Tithi:** Dasami 10.59 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Pushyami 9.46 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 20°C | MAX 34°C — **FORECAST** Afternoon clouds

Sunrise 06.12 am | Sunset 06.31 pm | Moonrise 02.11 am | Moonset 02.28 pm

A LITTLE RAIN FLOODS B'LURU AS SHOULDER DRAINS STAY CLOGGED

BBMP failed to mention simple solutions in budget, focused on mega projects: Experts

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE April 3 rainfall Bengaluru saw was enough to expose the lack of preparedness of civic agencies. As per the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC), Bengaluru Urban received just 7.2mm of rain, yet most areas saw waterlogging, trees and electric poles falling and water gushing into people's homes. While residents termed it the new normal for Bengaluru, experts said this reflects misplaced priorities of the government.

"The BBMP budget listed mega projects running into crores, like the skydeck, tunnel roads and double-decker flyovers. But a simple solution that costs only a few lakhs of rupees did not find mention -- having proper clean shoulder drains and rajakaluves and rainwater harvesting," said an expert, wishing not to be named as he works closely with the government.

"Trees and branches are falling because of poor maintenance. The BBMP was supposed to complete the tree survey and prune branches, but it has not been done. Tree fall happens when footpaths and roads are concretised leaving no space for aeration of roots. Many action plan reports have been prepared by IISc, EMPRI and BPAC on flood mitigation and the government has to just implement it. Disaster management rests only on paper. Even small quantities of rain expose ad hoc planning by administrators," said Prof TV Ramachandra, Centre for Excellence, IISc.

A KSNDMC official said Bengaluru gets flooded despite tech solutions and issuing alerts on time. "Government agencies look for quick solutions. But even they can't be implemented if the natural flow of water is interrupted. Climate action plan solutions should be followed to the 'T'," he added.

Ashish Verma, professor and convenor, Sustainable Transportation Lab, IISc, said the construction of roads on drains is a violation of the National Green Tribunal Orders. Buffer zones along water bodies must be maintained.

"When the road size increases, water management capacity reduces. Run off is poor on concrete roads when compared to bitumen roads. Roads should have slopes on either sides and should be connected to clean, free-flowing shoulder drains. We do not see them anywhere. Solutions are simple and low cost. But the will to implement is lacking. Floods used to affect the poor, but now, those staying in upscale villas and apartments too are affected. Engineers should be held accountable for permitting construction on water bodies," he said.

Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, WRI India, said flooding happens whenever drains are clogged with debris and silt or encroached. "In the BBMP, road asphalting is seen as a separate task from drains and other utilities. Also downstream, rajakaluves and lakes need to be improved. Recently, the BBMP published the Namma Raste Kaipidi manual, which is an SOP for making better roads that are pothole free and drain well. It also suggests process changes to improve coordination across agencies. If this is implemented in letter and spirit, we can expect less flooding."

Vivek Menon, a civic activist, said drains have been designed for smaller water holding capacity, and to make matters worse, they are concretised. They serve no purpose in recharging groundwater. There are too many government bodies, but they have no solid coordinated management plan and no foresight. There are jurisdictional egos among departments and officials. There is a solution to fix the problem, but will is needed, he said.

Bike taxis quickest, cheapest, don't ban them: Users

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of the Karnataka High Court directing bike taxi aggregators to wind up their operations within six weeks, people who rely on these services say they are the cheapest and quickest mode of transport, compared to autos, Metro and cabs.

The New Indian Express spoke to some bike taxi users and mobility experts. While users batted for laying down regulations which bike taxi operators have to follow, mobility expert from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Ashish Verma opined that a comprehensive study and understanding are needed before banning bike taxis.

Balachandar, a techie who regularly swaps bike taxis for BMTC buses, said no other mode of transport offers the convenience that bike taxis do. "To catch a bus or get into the Metro, I have to walk from my home for over 10 minutes. If I book an auto, they look at the pick-up location and don't accept rides, as they generally don't intend to navigate through narrow streets. Bike taxis not only immediately accept my rides, but are the cheapest."

At any given time, bike taxis are cheaper by around 30 per cent compared to autos, he said. Another big reason to opt for bike taxis are "Bengaluru's infamous traffic jams" where bike taxis can travel faster than autos and cabs. He said on many occasions he was fed up waiting for BMTC buses at bus stops, and would then head out to book a bike taxi as he had to reach his destination on time.

This has been the case for most bike taxi users, who opt for the cheapest and quickest commute in the city. Bike taxi users said the government must regulate taxis with a clear framework as they are helpful to them, and at the same time, provide employment opportunity to the riders.

While the Maharashtra government recently permitted e-taxi operations and Tamil Nadu government imposed a ban and revoked it, bike taxi operations is facing legal challenges in India. In under-developed and developing countries, bike taxis are widely prevalent and used as first and last mile connectivity option.

Mobility expert Prof Ashish Verma said bike taxis have both desirable and undesirable aspects. "While bike taxis provide a convenient, fast and economical last/first-mile option to public transport, the driving behaviour of bike taxi drivers poses road safety fears. Further, safety concerns about women users while availing bike taxi rides also needs attention."

Professor and convener, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab), Verma pushed for a more comprehensive study and understanding before banning bike taxis. He stated that along with the evolving landscape of mobility options, our Motor Vehicle Act and rules should also evolve with time.

CITY IN FESTIVE CHEER

Devotees wait to offer prayers at the Rajajinagar Rama Mandira on the occasion of Ramanavami on Sunday. Buttermilk and panaka being distributed at the temple | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

JNP to host spl show for Zero Shadow Day on Apr 24

Bengaluru : Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium (JNP) will host a special five-hour series of shows for school students on April 24, explaining the science behind the phenomenon, "Zero Shadow Day". Ashish M, a researcher with JNP said, "Zero Shadow Day is a day when, for a short time around noon, objects standing straight do not cast any shadow. This happens because the Sun is exactly above our heads. Zero Shadow Day happens twice a year." He said the phenomenon only happens in places between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, like many parts of India. Interested students from classes 8 -10 can apply through the planetarium's official website. The planetarium will also organise a one-day workshop on optical illusions on April 13 for Classes 7 and 8 students. **ENS**

Min urges firms to adopt & support children with ultra-rare diseases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MEDICAL Education and Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil has urged corporate houses, to adopt kids suffering from 'ultra-rare' diseases and support their treatment through CSR funding.

This comes as hundreds of children across India — especially in Karnataka — are diagnosed with rare and ultra-rare genetic disorders, including lysosomal storage disorders (LSDs) such as Gaucher and Pompe. These conditions often require expensive, long-term treatment, costing between Rs 50 lakh to over Rs 1 crore per child annually.

He appealed to adopt at least one child per year by contributing Rs 50 lakh, ensuring continued access to life-saving care.

Under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), the Centre grants such treatments. Since 2016, the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) in Bengaluru, one of the 13 Centres of Excellence for Rare Diseases in the country, has been treating children affected by such disorders. Currently, there are 22 children undergoing treatment at IGICH with Rs 50 lakh allocated for each. So far, the state government has released Rs 76 crore to the institute, while additional funding proposals have been sent to the Centre.

Patil has directed Dr KS Sanjay, Director of IGICH, to use a portion of the institute's corpus fund to meet the treatment expenses.

Soudha to be lit up on weekends, holidays

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

EVERY weekend and on public holidays henceforth, the power centre of the state — Vidhana Soudha — will be decked up in spectacular hues. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the permanent illumination system at the Soudha, which was lit up in the tricolour, on Sunday evening. For now, the lighting will be from 6.30 pm to 10 pm during weekends and public holidays. There are also plans to extend this for all seven days of the week in the future.

"People have chosen and sent us to Vidhana Soudha to give justice to even the most marginalised people of the state. We should strive hard to achieve the idea behind constructing this building," the CM said. On behalf of the government, he congratulated Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader for his initiative of illuminating Vidhana Soudha.

Metro pillars, heritage buildings next

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar said there are plans to illuminate Metro pillars and heritage buildings in the city. "Forty places have been identified for the purpose. A detailed project report (DPR) has also been prepared. Soon, tenders will be invited in this regard," he added.

Ministers K J George, H K Patil, CM's political secretaries K Govindaraju and Naseer Ahmed, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary L K Atheeq and others were present.

26-acre Choodasandra Lake gets a green, clean makeover

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE 26-acre Choodasandra Lake has been restored, increasing its water retention capacity from 84 million litres to 150 million and improving its water quality and biodiversity. It is estimated to benefit 3,000 households.

The lake has been cleared of encroachments and weeds, while the deterioration of water quality has been stemmed by diverting sewage water, creating a wetland and planting indigenous plants like nymphaea and colocasia.

To revive biodiversity, the lake was desilted and native species of saplings were planted. Bunds, sluice gates and a kalyani were also constructed.

The project was taken up under the CSR initiative of Bosch Global Software Technologies (BGSW) and NGO SayTrees.

"The return of bird species like ashy woodswallow is a strong indicator of ecological recovery, underscoring the success of restoration efforts," said Dr Rajkamal Goswami, an ecologist from the Choodasandra Lake Restoration Monitoring & Evaluation team. The project took a holistic approach for sustainable and long-term impact, addressing the ecological, infrastructural and community needs of the lake, a press note stated.

SayTree founder Kapil Sharma hoped that this serves as a model for other urban water body restoration projects.

To the beat of drums and traditional music, the permanent illumination system at Vidhana Soudha was inaugurated on Sunday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

07TH April : Overall, this week's stars are still wild and wonderful, though slightly less so than last week's. The old question returns; are we going to opt for the safe alternative or make a complete break with the past? The answer lies in the mix of energetic and cautious planetary aspects that are encouraging us to take risks - but to safeguard our positions at the same time. I think we'll all work it out in our own ways.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
In spite of appearances, the important developments this week may be the ones that normally pass unnoticed. You will have to be quick-witted and fast-moving to catch other people out, if that is what you are intending to do. But it still looks to me as if partners have the best ideas.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
There may soon have to be a substantial alteration in your personal life, one which could well have repercussions in your professional or related activities. Don't think of yourself as a martyr or victim, though. It's time to stand up and be counted!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
A general abundance of challenging aspects may let you off the hook as far as at least one interesting matter is concerned, yet the atmosphere will be tense and I would be surprised if you escaped without at least one minor confrontation. Still, you might even come out on top.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You may have become accustomed to soothing words, especially where long-term financial commitments are concerned. Happily, Mercury's witty performance must have now made you realise that it is better to talk about all those personal differences than ignore them.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It is not part of your nature to suffer fools gladly or to watch partners making silly mistakes. However, an examination of the current situation should make it clear that others must be allowed to go their own way. You might even want to lend a hand!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is no time for self-doubt or second thoughts about new plans or projects at work. You must press ahead, arranging meetings and discussions until you receive the assurances you need. And, if you are concerned about the outcome, make sure that partners understand your predicament.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Look on the bright side. Financial obligations have caused a certain amount of heart-searching although, when all is said and done, it's difficult to see that you could have acted other than you did. You will not make the same mistake twice. At least, not in exactly the same way!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
It is well worth reminding you that the main difficulty now lies in your failure to let go of the past. It is by refusing to face up to the present that you allow opportunities to slip by - and so let yourself down. If you tackle all those old regrets and resentments, you will soon be much happier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You are reaching a turning point in your financial situation. What is really at issue, though, is a number of your priorities - and the completely irrational values you put on various people and objects. Have you misjudged somebody? If so, make amends now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There is nothing to be gained from suppressing your dreams and adopting a crude materialistic approach. You must have faith in your imagination plus the courage to follow your intuitions, even when this means putting yourself out on a limb.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You may think you are good with money, but you must now endeavour to be more selective in your choice of business companions. Sensitive friends and family members may encourage you to be too influenced by first, and perhaps misleading, impressions.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Does it seem that other people, including those whom you count among your friends, have been unnaturally cold, unfriendly or secretive? Is it possible that part of the problem lies with your own failure to communicate? In that case, break down personal barriers as soon as you can.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

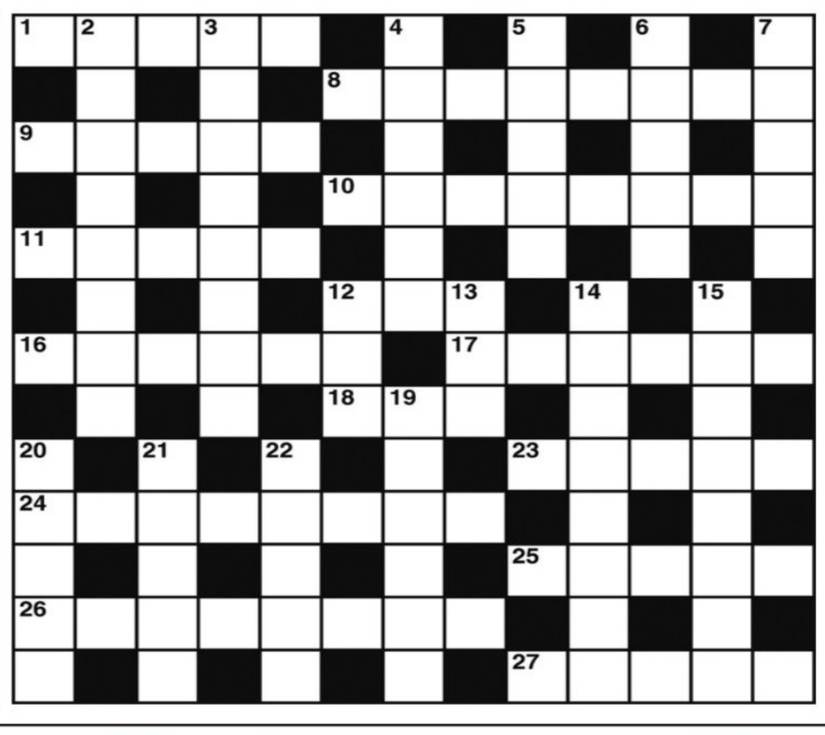
		9	4				2	5
		1		5	7			
			2			1		8
	1				9			
		8	1		2	7		
			7				6	
6		4			1			
			8	7		3		
5	8				4	2		

6	8	4	3	7	1	5	9	2
5	3	9	4	2	8	1	6	7
1	2	7	6	9	5	3	4	8
4	5	6	2	8	9	7	3	1
7	1	3	5	6	4	8	2	9
2	9	8	1	3	7	6	5	4
9	4	5	8	1	3	2	7	6
8	7	2	9	5	6	4	1	3
3	6	1	7	4	2	9	8	5

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Traps specially designed for small fish (5)
8 Move West from Wyoming in terrible disgrace (8)
9 In classes children take a point to heart (5)
10 It's inevitable for one to come round to illustrate (8)
11 Pronounce complete (5)
12 She comes back with no change (3)
16 Performs a new ascent (6)
17 Happen to get increased yield (4,2)
18 Hurry up and listen to a salutation (3)
23 Girl's trousers (5)
24 Cash exchanged in pure monetary transaction (8)
25 Cast worth putting into new production (5)
26 Enthusiast takes charge (8)
27 Good man on Noah's ship is unqualified (5)

DOWN
2 Indicating work on the wall is needed (8)
3 People at play (8)
4 A lodge refurbished in antique style (3-3)
5 Wrote off loom (5)
6 He's not easily persuaded to move inside a little (5)
7 Kinds of characters in print (5)
12 Has become the possessor of a wooden trunk (3)
13 Champion one for cards (3)
14 To a certain extent how meat's cooked (8)
15 Become embittered and go off (4,4)
19 Take cover (6)
20 Upset a lighter (5)
21 Go for the green (5)
22 Possibly showed off Eastern craft (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Meal ticket, 6 Chip, 10 Copes, 11 Surrender, 12 Take note, 13 Drain, 15 Ability, 17 Tackles, 19 Regatta, 21 Inertia, 22 Ember, 24 Instruct, 27 On the wing, 28 Femur, 29 Tint, 30 Kettledrum.

Down: 1 Mace, 2 Appealing, 3 Taste, 4 Custody, 5 Earnest, 7 Hydra, 8 Parents' day, 9 Headache, 14 Carried out, 16 Internee, 18 Latecomer, 20 Asinine, 21 Insight, 23 Baton, 25 Rifle, 26 Arum.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

LDIYO

ZUEGA

CLBTHO

LINAYM

Ooof! You shouldn't have let me have that last piece.
You have no one to blame but yourself for eating too much.
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
2/10
WHEN HE COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW FULL HE WAS, HIS WIFE TOLD HIM TO STOP HIS ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BOSSY KIOSK UNWIND PLIGHT
Answer: When it came to knowing exactly when to spray, the skunk had — GOOD "IN-STINKS"

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PROTESTERS MARCH IN U.S. CITIES AGAINST TRUMP 'DEVASTATION'

Thousands of protesters flooded streets of US cities Sunday to oppose policies of Trump, in the largest demonstration in his new stint

LENS ON 'OUTRAGEOUS ADMINISTRATION'

Opponents of Trump's policies — from government staffing cuts to trade tariffs and eroding civil liberties — rallied in Washington, New York, Houston, Florida, Colorado, and Los Angeles, among other locations. "This outrageous administration is causing us to lose our allies across the world," said Diane Kolifrath, 64, a bike tour guide

HELPLESSNESS IN FACE OF TRUMP TIRADE

- Trump has angered many Americans by moving aggressively to downsize, unilaterally impose conservative values and pressure even friendly countries over trade, causing stock markets to tank
- Many Democrats are irate that their party, in minority in the Congress, has seemed so helpless to resist Donald Trump's moves

1,200

LOCATIONS IN 50 STATES WITNESSED PROTESTS AS PART OF HANDS OFF RALLY

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

BJP-led govt has allotted TN more funds than UPA regimes, says Modi

PM inaugurates new Pamban bridge, claims some have habit of complaining without reason

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the new Pamban Bridge, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday | KK SUNDAR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Ramanathapuram

THE BJP-led central government has provided Tamil Nadu three times the funds allocated by the earlier UPA regimes, of which the DMK was a part, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Rameswaram on Sunday, in an indirect attack on the Dravidian major which is in power in Tamil Nadu.

His government's allocations had boosted Tamil Nadu's economic and industrial growth, he said. "Yet, some people have a habit of complaining without reason and they keep crying about things. Let them cry," he added, during his address at a government event to open the first vertical span sea railway bridge at Pamban and flag off a train service linking the island to the mainland.

He also dedicated various completed projects worth ₹8,300 crore to the nation and laid foundation stone for the four-laning works of a section of NH-40. Chief Minister MK Stalin, who earlier urged the PM to allay TN's concerns about delimitation, skipped the event although state ministers were in attendance.

Stating that the centre has prioritised TN's infrastructure, Modi said the railway budget for the state had increased seven-fold in the past decade, from ₹900 crore before 2014 to over ₹6,000 crore now.

In tri-lingual speech in Tamil, Hindi and English, the PM invoked Tamil culture, tradition and language. Mocking leaders from Tamil Nadu for writing to him in English, he said, "Sometimes, I am surprised when I receive letters from some leaders of Tamil Nadu —not a single one signs their name in Tamil. Tamil is a matter of pride, and I urge everyone to at least sign their names in Tamil to honour this glorious language."

Touching on the ongoing arrests of TN fishers by the Sri Lankan Navy, Modi, who was returning from his two-day visit to the island nation, said the centre stands firmly with fishermen in times of crisis.

"Due to the efforts of the Indian government, more than 3,700 fishermen have been brought back safely from Sri Lanka in the last 10 years. Of these, over 600 fishermen were freed just in the past year. You may also remember that some of our fishermen were sentenced to death. But we worked tirelessly to bring them back alive and reunite them with their families in Bharat."

Noting that several states have started providing medical education in regional languages, the prime minister urged the state government to introduce medical courses in Tamil. P5

3,700 rescued in 10 yrs

Touching on the ongoing arrests of TN fishers by the Sri Lankan Navy, Modi said, "Due to efforts of the Indian government, over 3,700 fishermen have been brought back safely from Sri Lanka in the last 10 years."

PM launches 2 India-backed rail projects in Sri Lanka

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated two major India-backed railway projects in the historical city of Anuradhapura in north-central Sri Lanka on Sunday, before wrapping up his three-day trip to the island nation.

Accompanied by Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Modi officially launched the upgraded Maho-Omanthai railway track and the newly installed signalling system for the Maho-Anuradhapura segment. Both projects are backed by Indian assistance. The projects, executed by IRCON International, are seen as a significant contribution by India to Sri Lanka's infrastructure development.

"These landmark railway modernisation projects implemented under the India-Sri Lanka development partnership represent a significant milestone in strengthening north-south rail connectivity in Sri Lanka," External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, Modi and Dissanayake visited the Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi temple. The temple houses the sacred Bodhi tree, believed to be a sapling brought from India by Sanghamitta Theri, daughter of Emperor Ashoka.

LIGHTS ON

An illuminated Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday. Henceforth, the majestic structure will be lit up on weekends and public holidays | ALLEN EGENUSE J | P2

Dallewal ends 131-day fast in Punjab, vows to fight on

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

PUNJAB farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Sunday said he was ending his hunger strike which he had started on November 26 last year to press for various demands of agitating farmers including a legal guarantee on the minimum support price for crops.

Addressing a 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' at Sirhind in Fatehgarh Sahib, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) chief said, "You (farmers) have asked me to end the fast. I respect your sentiments and accept your order. I wanted to continue until all 12 demands were met, but as more farmers urged me to mobilise support nationwide, I decided to accept their appeals."

He reaffirmed the fight for a legal guarantee on MSP and said protests could resume if needed. The announcement came a day after Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu appealed to him to end his fast-unto-death.

Dallewal launched his hunger strike on November 26, 2024 for MSP guarantee, apart from other demands. Detained on March 19, he was hospitalised until April 3. Protests at Shambhu and Khanauri were ended by Punjab Police on March 19.

CPM picks Kerala veteran Baby as general secretary

ANIL S @ Madurai

THE 24th Congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which concluded in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday, elected veteran Kerala leader M A Baby as its sixth general secretary.

The 71-year-old's elevation to the top post was on expected lines, though there was some initial opposition from the West Bengal unit.

A former Kerala minister, Baby is the second leader from the state CPM to lead the party, after E M S Namboodiripad. Baby is also the first Christian to lead the party.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Baby said the election was unanimous. "It was West Bengal secretary Mohammed Salim who proposed my name, and it was backed by Dr Ashok Dhawale, whom some of you had projected as the general secretary candidate," he said.

Being chosen to lead the party through trying times, Baby said strengthening the party at places where it is weak and taking on the Sangh Parivar-led BJP are the major tasks before him.

The party congress also elected an 85-member Central Committee (CC) with 20% women representation. Adhering to the age cap of 75 years, seven veterans, including Prakash Karat, Manik Sarkar, Brinda Karat, and Subhashini Ali, stepped down.

The Karats, Sarkar and Ali along with three other veterans — Biman Basu, S Ramachandran Pillai and Hannan Mollah — were made special invitees to the CC.

Jammu & Kashmir leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami and P K Sreemathy from Kerala too were exempted from the age criterion and retained in CC.

EXPRESS READ

ED arrests former GM of Bhovi corporation

Bengaluru: The ED has arrested the former general manager of Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation BK Nagarajappa. It is alleged that over Rs 97 cr granted by the State Government was allegedly misappropriated in the year 2021-2022 | P4

BJP's Janakrosha stir from today till May 3

Bengaluru: Starting Monday, BJP Karnataka will hold Janakrosha protest rallies across the state till May 3. The protest is against the hike in prices of commodities, 4% quota reservation for Muslim contractors in government tenders and other issues. The protest will start in Mysuru and conclude in Bengaluru on May 3 | P4

60% of area irrigated by borewells in Karnataka

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

AS per Karnataka's Economic Survey 2024-25, close to 60 per cent of the state's net area is irrigated by borewells, while 18.86 per cent is done by canals. Ten years ago, the ratio was 37 per cent (borewells) and 34 per cent (canals).

Due to the overuse of groundwater, and lack of new irrigation projects in Karnataka, borewells have become the main source for irrigation. Experts point out that while government subsidies have ''encouraged'' farmers to dig borewells, political issues are said to be one of the main reasons for not getting new irrigation projects/canals.

Water for irrigation comes from various sources such as wells, ponds, rivers, dams, rainfall and other means. Among all sources of irrigation, the net area irrigated by borewells is the highest, followed by canals.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, water expert and former secretary, irrigation department, Captain Raja Rao said groundwater usage has increased drastically over a period of time. P5

Minor hit in pvt parts over theft charges

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @ Davangere

IN an inhuman act, a minor boy, who is a school dropout, was tied to an arecanut tree and beaten in his private parts at Asthapanahalli near Nallur in Channagiri taluk for allegedly stealing arecanut. Another boy who tried to help the victim was also attacked by the same group. The boy was beaten up with a drip pipe, leaving his private parts red. The minor, who belongs to the Hakki-Pikki community, was attacked by youth from the same community.

After the boy's grandfather filed a complaint, the Channagiri police registered an FIR against nine people — Subhash (23), Lucky (21), Darshan (22), Parashu (25), Shivadarshan (23), Harish (25), Patti Raju (20), Bhuni (18) and Sudhan alias Madhusudhan (32). One person has been arrested. P5

IN A FIRST...

All-women tri-services crew to sail around Indian Ocean

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

A remarkable tale of determination and sisterhood is unfolding in the Indian Ocean. In a first for the tri-services, 11 fearless women officers from the armed forces will start sailing around the Indian Ocean beginning Monday.

The Samudra Pradakshina expedition kicks off on April 7 from Mumbai's Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, and promises to be a testament to women power and inter-services camaraderie.

The leadup to this moment has been nothing short of Herculean. The team, comprising six Army officers, one Navy officer, and four Air Force officers, underwent rigorous training at the Army Adventure Nodal Centre for Blue Water Sailing, under College of Military Engineering in Pune. With little to no sailing experience, they began from scratch, mastering theoretical and practical aspects of sailing, as well as building the physical strength and stamina needed for the gruelling demands of the sea. "The selection process spanned over a year and tested physical fitness, endurance, teamwork, leadership qualities, psychological resilience, and boat-handling capabilities," said a source.

The training regimen was exhaustive and thorough, exposing the officers to various classes of boats and essential sailing skills such as navigation, meteorology, and emergency response. The crew embarked on several training expeditions, gradually increasing in complexity and distance. They started with short day trips, progressing to day and night expeditions covering significant distances. Their training routes included voyages from Mumbai to Karanja, Murud, Goa, Kochi, Porbandar, Lakshadweep and back.

Each training expedition presented its own set of challenges, from unpredictable weather to mechanical issues and physical toll of continuous sailing. The mission is not just about breaking geographical milestones but also shattering cultural and gender barriers.

The expedition, which will cover over 4,000 nautical miles in about 55 days, will be on board the IASV Triveni. The mission will set a world record as the first tri-services team to circumnavigate an ocean, a senior official said.

THE EXPEDITION BY NUMBERS

DISTANCE TO BE COVERED: Over **4,000** nautical miles (approximately **7,400** km)

DURATION: **55 days**, to be flagged off on April 7 at the Naval Training Centre Mumbai

CREW: **11 women** officers from India's Armed Forces

VESSEL: IASV Triveni, which will set a world record as the first Tri-Services team to circumnavigate the world

The selection process for the mission spanned over a year and tested physical fitness, endurance, teamwork, leadership qualities, psychological resilience, and boat-handling capabilities

Source

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Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday said nepotism is prevalent in the Waqf Board and many people are illegally grabbing Waqf properties. "To prevent all this and to uphold the true purpose of Wakf, the amendment bill has been passed," he added

THE NIGHT TRAFFIC BAN THROUGH BANDIPUR RESERVE HAS BEEN A BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN KARNATAKA AND KERALA. NOW, CONGRESS LEADERS ARE PUSHING FOR LIFTING OF THE BAN, WHICH COULD LEAD TO A TUSSLE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT

ON THE WILD SIDE

Before the night traffic ban, 91 mammals, 75 birds and 56 reptiles were killed between 2004 and 2007 on NH-766. But after the ban came into force just nine roadkills were reported between 2022 and 2024 | EXPRESS

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

THE night traffic ban through the core Bandipur Tiger Reserve has once again become a hot-button issue, drawing the attention of political leaders, environmentalists, and legal authorities alike. The issue started gaining traction following a letter from Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, urging that the ban be reconsidered, and in keeping with this development, the Karnataka government also withdrew a counter-affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, reigniting demands for lifting the ban.

However, recent statements of Congress leaders, including Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and others, have not gone down well with environmentalists and the public in Mysuru and Chamarajanagar districts. They are up in arms and have launched a series of campaigns, padayatras and protests against lifting of the traffic ban in Bandipur, and have urged authorities not to consider the request to lift the ban.

With mounting political pressure, legal complexities and conservation concerns, the Bandipur night traffic ban controversy has once again reached the forefront of public discourse.

Origin of night traffic ban

Bandipur National Park, a crucial part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, spans 868.63 sqkm in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar district. National Highway-766 (formerly NH-212) cuts through the core of the tiger reserve, making it a high-risk zone for wildlife.

Between 2005 and 2007, a study by the Wildlife Conservation Foundation (WCF) documented 286 wildlife fatalities due to vehicle collisions in Bandipur. The casualties included elephants, leopards, deer and smaller mammals.

In response to mounting evidence, Karnataka imposed a night traffic ban in 2009, restricting vehicular movement from 9pm to 6am. Environmentalists and conservationists hailed the decision as a crucial step in preserving wildlife corridors and reducing roadkill. The Chamarajanagar deputy commissioner issued an order, which was strictly implemented.

However, since then the state of Kerala has consistently opposed the ban, citing economic and logistical concerns.

NH-766 serves as a key connection between Wayanad and Mysuru, and the restriction forces vehicles to take a longer alternative route via Hunsur, increasing travel time by about 45km.

Political pressure

The demand to lift the ban has resurfaced multiple times over the years, with Kerala pushing for relaxation, particularly during festivals and peak travel periods. However, the issue gained renewed momentum after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's election as Wayanad MP. Though previous MP Rahul Gandhi had also voiced lifting of the ban, it was made an election promise during Priyanka's campaign.

Even Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, made statements during election rallies, suggesting a potential review of the ban. Shivakumar had even said "all necessary steps" would be taken to ease travel restrictions.

Adding to the controversy, Forest Minister Khandre had at a meeting on March 23, 2025, decided to withdraw the counter-affidavit submitted by Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director Prabhakaran S. The affidavit had recommended permanently closing NH-766 upon completion of an alternative elevated road.

Although the government maintains that the night ban will remain in place, conservationists fear political manoeuvring may lead to its revocation. Highlighting the dangers posed by nocturnal traffic, they point out the tragic death of a elephant named Ranga in 2018, in a collision with a private bus.

BIG PICTURE

The opposition BJP has accused the Congress of bowing to pressure from its high command, with state BJP president BY Vijayendra saying "the Congress' loyalty to Delhi high command comes at the cost of state's wildlife". Environmentalists worry that political alignment could override conservation priorities.

Activists up in arms

Wildlife activists and former forest officers have strongly opposed any attempt to lift the night traffic ban. Environmentalists point out various incidents in the past, including one from 2005 when a mother langur brought her dead baby — killed by a speeding vehicle — to conservationists, pleading for help.

Joseph Hoover, a conservation activist, warned that political interference could set a dangerous precedent. Hoover, who is spearheading a campaign since last two weeks, said if the ban is lifted, they will hit the streets in protest. As a first step, an online campaign and padayatra took place on Sunday, with hundreds of wildlife activists and people from different walks of life reaching Bandipur.

T Balachandra, who retired as director of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said the night ban must continue, not just to reduce roadkill or allow wildlife to move freely at night, but also in the interest of people. "Why is the issue being dragged up now, and why is there political interference in a matter which is in court. The night traffic ban must be continued," he opined.

While the Congress government in the state insists that status quo will be maintained, environmentalists are skeptical, fearing that political pressure might lead to reversal of the hard-won conservation measure.

Several organisations from Wayanad support the night traffic ban, and have expressed displeasure against any move to lift it. Wayanad Prakristhi Samrakshana Samithi (WPSS - Wayanad nature protection forum) members said the night traffic ban was possible due to the efforts of environmentalists, and any attempts to lift the ban under political interference will pose a great problem for wildlife.

Battle in apex court

Kerala has repeatedly challenged the ban in court, supported by several industrialists and organisations from Wayanad, but Karnataka has defended it, citing wildlife protection laws and conservation studies.

In August 2019, the Supreme Court upheld the night travel ban, directing Karnataka to develop an alternative route. Following this ruling, Karnataka constructed a bypass road connecting Virajpet in Karnataka to Kannur in Kerala. The Supreme Court also permitted limited night travel by allowing four government-run buses from each state to operate on NH-766.

Now despite legal backing for the ban, the demand continues to push for its relaxation, with political figures like Priyanka Gandhi adding to the pressure, and BJP leaders, including Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, raising the issue in Parliament and opposing it.

He said, "The Karnataka state government is bowing to pressure from the Congress high command, and moving towards lifting the night traffic ban on the highway passing through Bandipur Tiger Reserve. This decision could lead to increased accidents and rising human-wildlife conflict. Matters concerning wildlife and environmental protection must be handled with utmost seriousness, without political compromise."

He also said that such interference by the Congress leadership in forest safety matters is deeply concerning, and has urged the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests to take urgent action to safeguard the ecological sanctity of Bandipur, and ensure long-term wildlife protection.

DEATH ON THE HIGHWAY

Total area of Bandipur Tiger Reserve: **868.63 sqkm**

Wildlife fatalities (2005-2007): **286**

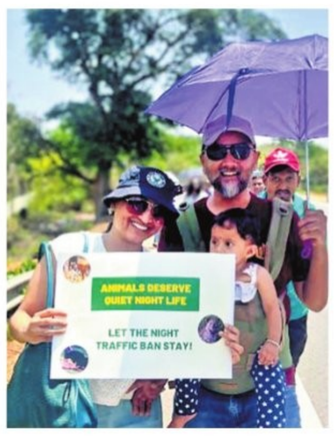
Tigers in Bandipur: Over **170** (as per latest census)

NIGHT BAN: IN A NUTSHELL

- Bandipur night traffic ban imposed in 2009 to protect wildlife from roadkill
- Kerala consistently opposes ban, citing travel inconvenience
- Issue resurfaces after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's election as Wayanad MP
- Karnataka govt withdraws counter-affidavit recommending NH-766 closure
- Deputy CM DK Shivakumar hints at reconsidering ban, sparks concern
- Environmentalists warn that lifting of ban would endanger wildlife
- SC upholds ban in 2019, directs Karnataka to develop alternative road
- **286** wildlife deaths recorded before ban, including elephants and big cats
- Roadkill numbers higher than poaching between 2004 and 2007, says WCF report
- BJP accuses Cong of prioritizing political gain over conservation
- Despite govt assurances, conservationists remain vigilant against policy reversal

Greens rally against lifting of night ban, MLA says no such proposal

K SHIVA KUMAR @Mysuru



HUNDREDS of activists, farmers and nature lovers from Mysuru and Bengaluru as well as neighbouring Tamil Nadu and Kerala took out a massive march and cycle rally in Bandipur on Sunday, urging the Karnataka government not to lift the night traffic ban in the national park.

Braving the scorching sun, the protesters marched from Kaggaladahundi to Sultan Bathery Road, holding 'Save Bandipur' placards to send a strong message to the government not to act on the proposal to lift the night traffic ban.

Wildlife photographer Senani said the biodiversity-rich Nilgiri biosphere, which covers 5,500sqkm, should be protected and people should understand the importance of conservation. "Roadkills pose a serious threat to every species, including frogs," he said, highlighting the importance of the night ban.

Welcoming the Raitha Sangha joining the stir, Senani urged elected representatives to take a decision after understanding its impact on the environment. Environmentalist Saptha Girish stressed that neither night traffic nor road widening work should be allowed in Bandipur.

Seconding this, retired DCF of Bandipur Tiger Reserve Balachandar pointed out that vehicular movement in Nagarahole, BR Hills, MM Hills and Salem has been banned from 8pm. "But there is a lot of pressure to lift the night traffic ban in Bandipur, which will be alarming for wildlife," he said.

Meanwhile, MLA Ganesh Prasad claimed that lifting of the night traffic ban was a rumour and there was no such proposal before the government.

'90% drop in roadkills'

In a memorandum submitted to the principal chief conservator of forests and park director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Chamarajanagar, the activists stated that 91 mammals of 14 species, 75 birds and 56 reptiles were killed prior to the night traffic ban between 2004 and 2007 on NH-766, that passes through the core of Bandipur forest. However, after the night traffic ban was enforced, the number dropped by 90 per cent, with just nine roadkills reported between 2022 and 2024.

They pointed out that vehicle entry to most wildlife sanctuaries and national parks across the country, including Karnataka, is banned from 6pm to 6am. The activists said setting aside roadkills, poachers from Kerala have been caught hunting spotted deer, sambar deer and gaur in the Nilgiris and Gudalur.

On March 30 last year, Tamil Nadu forest officials arrested one Ameen, who had illegally entered the Kundha range in Nilgiris, armed with weapons. In another incident, a forest offence case was filed against two poachers by Gudalur (Tamil Nadu) forest staff on February 27.

The activists observed that Kerala has lost 763 wild elephants between 2016 and 2024 due to encroachment of forests, electrocution, shooting, poisoning and firecrackers. This is a huge number that translates into human-animal conflicts within the Nilgiri biosphere.

The United Conservation Movement Trust appealed to the government to maintain status quo so that farmers in Nanjangud and Gundlupet regions are ensured a safe livelihood.

Wildlife activists and nature lovers take out a march on Sunday demanding that the government does not lift the night traffic ban in Bandipur Tiger Reserve | EXPRESS

BJP rallies at a stretch from today till May 3

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

STARTING Monday, BJP Karnataka members will hold 'Janakrosha' protest rallies across the state till May 3, covering one or two districts every day. The protest is against the state government for increasing the prices of essential commodities, 4 per cent reservation for Muslim contractors in government tenders and other issues. The protest will start in Mysuru on Monday and conclude in Bengaluru on May 3.

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka told reporters that every time Congress comes to power, there is corruption, maladministration and looting of people through price hike. In the last 21 months of Congress government, every month there is an increase in the price of one commodity or the other. "Our protest is also against misusing funds allotted for Dalits and injustice to farmers. The protest will be carried out in four phases in Mysuru, Kittur Karnataka, Coastal Karnataka and Kalyana-Karnataka regions," he added.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra and all senior leaders will take part in the rallies and the protest will be flagged off by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Monday. "We will walk 1 km in every district and then address the public on these issues. We want to reach every corner of the state," he said.

Because of price hike, the cost of commodities including vegetables, grains and other essentials has increased. "The government has increased the property guidance value, power tariff, bus and metro fares, government college fees and more," he added.

K'taka leaders rush to Ahmedabad for high-stakes AICC meet

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

IN what could be a game-changing moment for Congress, the party's Karnataka leadership is dashing to Ahmedabad for a crucial All-India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday.

The buzz doing the rounds is that a massive organisational overhaul is on the cards that could mark the end of centralised control and beginning of a more democratic, district-driven Congress.

Party insiders said this isn't expected to be just another strategy meet... it's going to be a move towards restructuring Congress from the ground up. "There's a serious effort to decentralise the organisation," said a senior AICC functionary. District presidents were recently consulted to determine whether their voices are truly being heard, he added.

The intent is clear: Empower local leadership and make candidate selection more inclusive, for example for the Lok Sabha and Assembly.

Around 140-150 AICC invitees from Karnataka, including CM Siddaramaiah, DCM and state president DK Shivakumar and ministers. "This is the beginning of a new Congress. The days of a state-centred command structure are numbered," said a senior leader, referring to the historic resolution passed during the AICC session in Belagavi, where the party promised to reform and restructure itself.

What's fuelling the fire further is Gujarat. With assembly elections slated for November next year, the Congress is already looking ahead and claiming that it would form the government in a state that has seen five consecutive BJP regimes. "We are preparing for a Congress comeback in Gujarat," declared a senior national leader.

While some KPCC organisers are already en route to Ahmedabad to oversee preparations, several top ministers will fly out on Tuesday evening, while the remaining senior leaders will leave on Wednesday.

KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed confirmed the development, saying, "There is serious stress on restructuring, reforming and strengthening Congress." He added that the core team, including Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, will lead the Karnataka delegation flying out on Wednesday morning.

With nearly all top functionaries set to descend on Ahmedabad, all eyes are now on what promises to be a defining chapter in the Congress revival story.

No need for CBI probe into Vinay's sucide: HM

Bengaluru: Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday said there was no need to hand over the suicide case of BJP worker Vinay Somaiah to the CBI. Speaking in Bengaluru, he said, "The BJP is demanding a CBI probe, but the investigation by the state police is already under way. There is no need to hand it over to the CBI as our police are investigating. If there are any lapses, they will find out. Then we will take further action," he told reporters. "The BJP is alleging that the death note mentioned names of MLAs but this was missing in the FIR. We will look into every aspect and investigate," he added. **ENS**

ED ARRESTS FORMER GM OF BHOVI CORPN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested the former general manager of the Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation (KBDC) in connection with the diversion of Rs 97 crore of corporation funds. The scam allegedly took place during the financial year 2021-22. Over Rs 97 crore granted by the state government was allegedly misappropriated in the names of 500 beneficiaries.

According to a press release, BK Nagarajappa was arrested on Saturday. Before his arrest, on Friday the ED conducted raids at various locations across the city, including the KBDC head office at VV Tower and Nagarajappa's residence, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The release said Nagarajappa diverted funds from KBDC's accounts to fake entities or beneficiaries, which were further transferred to his friends and family members. Several bank accounts were opened for transactions. Nagarajappa was produced before a special court, which remanded him to 14 days ED custody.

A bank employee, Chandan, was allegedly hit on the head with a stone by a customer when he went for loan recovery. The incident took place near the BDA Complex in Nagarabhavi on April 1. The accused, Ramesh, had not allegedly paid his EMI for his bike for the past two months

ASSURE US DELIMITATION WON'T REDUCE SEATS IN SOUTHERN STATES, STALIN TELLS MODI

He says TN will be number 1 state in the world if the Centre releases funds regularly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

ALLEGING that the BJP disregarded Tamil Nadu on key issues, TN Chief Minister **MK Stalin** on Sunday evening asked the people to provide the befitting reply to the national party in the upcoming Assembly polls that it will never find a place in the state. He was speaking at the Valli Kummi performance—organised by DMK ally Kongunadu Makkal Desiya Katchi—at the Codissia grounds in Coimbatore, after inaugurating The Nilgiris Government Medical College and Hospital earlier in the day.

Speaking at The Nilgiris, the CM had appealed to PM Narendra Modi to provide assurance while he was on "Tamil soil" that the delimitation exercise would not adversely impact the percentage of southern states' representation in the Parliament. However, the PM made no such announcement during his speech in Rameswaram. Referring to this later in the evening, Stalin asked, "What can we do about those who do not address important public issues?" The Centre is taking revenge on TN for not voting for the BJP, the CM said, adding that, "Not only in the country, TN will be the number 1 state in the world if the Central government released funds regularly." "Winning 40 seats in the 2024 polls was a testimonial for the DMK regime, and we will register a similar victory in the 2026 Assembly polls. Our alliance will win and continue on," he said.

Stalin also said that DMK deputy secretary and Nilgiris MP A Raja would initiate the filing of a case in the Supreme Court against the Waqf (Amendment) Act on Monday. Questioning why AIADMK did not impose the condition that Tamil Nadu should be exempted from NEET when it faced elections together with the BJP, the CM said his alliance made Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to provide that assurance.

SC will strike down Waqf Bill: PC

Former union finance minister **P Chidambaram** said the Supreme Court would strike down the Waqf Bill as the amendments were violative of the Constitutional provisions. After CAA, revocation of special status for Jammu & Kashmir and enforcing UCC in Uttarakhand, the Waqf Bill is the latest in the anti-Muslim measures being unleashed by the Modi-led government since 2014, he said.

Winning 40 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls was a testimonial for the DMK regime, and we will register a similar victory in the 2026 Assembly polls. Our alliance will win and continue on

TN CM MK Stalin

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at the Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday | EXPRESS

PM INAUGURATES NEW PAMBAN RAIL SEA BRIDGE

MS THANARAJ @ Ramanathapuram

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the new Pamban bridge, the country's first vertical lift sea bridge, and flagged off train service linking Rameswaram island to the rest of the country. The 2.08-km-long bridge, constructed at a revised cost of Rs 704 crore, connects Rameswaram with Mandapam on the mainland.

After the train crossed the new bridge, the centre vertical lift span of the new and old Pamban bridges were opened for the Indian Coast Guard ships to pass under the bridge. The new bridge has a 72.5-m vertical lift span that can be raised to a height of 17 metres, facilitating smooth sailing of large boats beneath while ensuring seamless train operations. Considering the condition of the century-old Pamban railway sea bridge, the railways started construction of the new rail sea bridge in 2019. Posting a video, Modi said on X, "On the way back from Sri Lanka a short while ago, was blessed to have a Darshan of the Ram Setu. And, as a divine coincidence, it happened at the same time as the Surya Tilak was taking place in Ayodhya." He added, "Blessed to have the Darshan of both. Prabhu Shri Ram is a uniting force for all of us. May His blessings always remain upon us." Modi also offered prayers at the Ramanathaswamy Temple on Sunday, coinciding with Rama Navami.

'Technical glitch'

On Sunday, the new Pamban rail sea bridge was hit by 'a technical snag' while lowering the lift span. Sources said that the lift span got stuck midway. A Pamban Railway bridge official told TNIE that "owing to electricity issues", some technical problem occurred in the lift span. However, the issue was fixed in no time. Two trains operated on the bridge on Sunday.

'SLIGHT SETBACK'

CPM gen secy admits to decline in party strength

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

FORMER Kerala minister MA Baby who was elected as the CPM general secretary at the 24th Party Congress in Madurai on Sunday admitted that there had been a decline in the party's strength and said every CPM member needed to come together to achieve the goal of strengthening it.

"There has been some decline in our strength which we don't want to conceal. Only when we accept the reality, recognise the reality, and search for the reasons as to why we are faced with this decline, will we be able to undertake a course correction. We are in the process of not only doing all that is necessary to strengthen the party but also build Left unity," he said.

"There is a slight setback in West Bengal and other parts of the country as well. But CPM is always in the forefront of addressing the people's issues. Kerala has created history with a continuous communist party-led government in the state. The party congress understands the huge responsibility before us. We did introspection and self-critical analysis to reach out to the people. We hope to get support from the masses," he said.

The CPM has decided to support the countrywide strike called by trade unions on April 20 against the labour codes passed by the Centre.

Former CPM Politburo coordinator Prakash Karat (left) and newly elected party General Secretary MA Baby, in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, on Sunday

FIR, action if students made to clean toilets

EXPRESS NEEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Department of School Education has issued a warning to all government primary and secondary schools, directing them not to involve students in cleaning toilets. The department said any violation will lead to disciplinary action, including filing of an FIR against the staff responsible.

The circular follows a January incident where students of a government school under Begur police limits were made to clean toilets. The issue came to light after videos of the children went viral on social media. A police case was registered on March 29 against school headmistress and physical education teacher, under the Juvenile Justice Act, after social worker Nagesh filed a complaint.

The department noted that despite a circular issued in 2023, instructing schools not to get children to clean toilets, some schools continued to violate the order.

'Borewells being drilled irrationally'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WATER expert and former secretary, irrigation department, Captain Raja Rao said even Niti Aayog has issued a warning about this, but usage of groundwater and borewells has not stopped. "With subsidies by the government, farmers and others are drilling borewells irrationally. There are acts to monitor groundwater usage, but no one is doing it," he alleged.

On Upper Krishna Project-III, Rao said this was designed to irrigate close to 6lakh hectares in a few districts in North Karnataka. Though all processes are complete, it is pending before the Union Government for issue of gazette notification since 2013. The State has done a lot of work, including construction of canals and pumps. But work cannot be taken up without legal approval from the Centre. He said the project has been delayed due to political differences between the State and Centre.

Water activist Vishwanath Srikantaiah said irrigation has two challenges. The existing infrastructure is not adequate for the reservoirs created. Water does not reach the tail-end of many canals. He said in the command area, efficiency is 50% or less in many places. "Farmers take up borewells for independence from bureaucratic set-ups, so that they can draw water on their own," he said.

Vishwanath stressed on focusing on sustainable groundwater, so that adequate water is available for farmers throughout the year. He said the government has to take up sustainable management of groundwater. In fact, the government has taken up Atal Bhoojal Yojana, a groundwater management programme which gives a better understanding of aquifers. That has to be backed by a legal and institutional framework which ensures these aquifers are recharged and used sustainably.

Vishwanath said groundwater has become the private property of individual farmers, though it should be treated as a common pool resource. On the canal irrigation system, he said the water belongs to the state as it allows water distribution through canals to farmers' fields. "We have poor command area management of water. Canals are old, their linings are gone, they leak and farmers don't follow good practices," he added.

A CHILD IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW: SP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ONE person has been arrested, while the search is on for the rest.

A video of the incident has gone viral on social media sites. Superintendent of Police Uma Prashanth said, "The video is seven days old. We took the issue seriously, went to the root of it and booked the FIR on the complaint filed by the boy's relative against nine people." She said that as the boy is 16 years old and was involved in a theft, he is a "child in conflict with the law". "We advised the parents to bring the boy for counselling as we want to ensure that no such incidents will take place in the future," she added.

CRIME PATROL

9-yr-old girl dies after tractor overturns in Whitefield

Bengaluru: A nine-year-old girl died after the tractor she was travelling overturned near Pattandur Agrahara tank bund on Saturday. Her father and younger sister escaped with minor injuries. The victim, Ishika Bhat, was a resident of Whitefield and a native of Nepal. Ishika, along with her father and six-year-old sister, was returning home when her father, lost control of the vehicle. Police cited negligent driving and overspeeding as the cause of the accident. The Whitefield traffic police have registered a case against Tilak Raj Bhat, Ishika's father. **ENS**

Construction worker found dead in Peenya

Bengaluru: A 25-year-old man was found murdered in a deserted area near Panchamukhi Layout within the Peenya police station limits on Sunday morning. The deceased, Vikas Kumar, a construction worker was a native of Bihar. His body was found by a resident around 7.30 am. According to police officials, there were injury marks on his head and other parts of the body. The scene of crime officers examined the area, and the body was sent for postmortem. Police have registered a case of murder. **ENS**

Caught on camera: Woman waylaid, sexually harassed

Bengaluru: A woman was sexually harassed by a man who inappropriately touched her on Friday. The act was caught on a CCTV camera. The incident took place near Bharathi Layout 1st Cross around 2 am. She was accompanied by her friend during the incident. No complaints have been registered, police said. The incident was captured by a CCTV installed at a house and the houseowner filed a complaint on Saturday. In the visuals, the victim and her friend is seen walking in a narrow lane when a man waylaid her and touched her inappropriately. He fled the scene following the incident. Police have filed a case. **ENS**

Stormy weather likely in parts of Karnataka for next 2 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

PARTS of Karnataka, including Bengaluru, are in for a spell of stormy weather, with the next two days expected to bring cloudy skies, bursts of moderate rain, and heavy downpours in some southern interior pockets of the state. The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) has issued a warning for thunderstorms, lightning, and winds reaching speeds of up to 40 kmph in the aforementioned areas. "Residents have been advised to stay indoors during stormy weather and avoid travel during periods of intense rainfall," KSNDMC said, warning of scattered thunderstorms in Bengaluru and nearby areas, with gusty winds.

KSNDMC's five-day weather forecast stated that cloudy conditions will prevail across Karnataka till Monday, accompanied by thunder, lightning, and strong winds reaching 30–40 kmph. Southern interior districts are likely to experience scattered to widespread moderate rainfall, with chances of isolated heavy showers.

According to India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru is expected to see clear skies on Monday. "No rain is likely, and minimum temperatures will range between a minimum of 21-22°C," an IMD official said.

LENDING SUPPORT

Supporters of BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal protest against his expulsion from BJP for six years, in Bengaluru on Sunday

35-yr-old dies after giving birth at home in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Malappuram

WHAT should have been a moment of joy turned into a devastating tragedy for a family in Chattiparamba, Malappuram, when 35-year-old Asma lost her life hours after giving birth to a boy -- her fifth delivery -- within the confines of her rented house, without medical supervision. Asma's family has accused her husband, Sirajuddin, who is now at the centre of a police investigation, of negligence and deliberate denial of medical care.

According to police, Asma gave birth around 6 pm on Saturday. Three hours later, she was found unresponsive. Sirajuddin, who runs a religious YouTube channel, allegedly failed to seek medical help when Asma went into labour. He called an ambulance only after she stopped breathing. The case took a disturbing turn when Sirajuddin attempted to shift the body to Perumbavoor for burial without notifying Asma's family. The ambulance driver alerted authorities. Police intervened and redirected the body to Perumbavoor Taluk Hospital for postmortem. According to hospital authorities, the postmortem will be conducted on Monday. Tensions flared when Asma's relatives confronted Sirajuddin. He was reportedly assaulted and is currently receiving treatment at a local hospital. The baby has been shifted to medical care and is reportedly in stable condition.

Asma's family claimed that only the first two of her five deliveries took place in a hospital. They allege that despite warnings from family and medical professionals about the risks of a home birth — especially given her age and previous complications— Sirajuddin insisted on avoiding hospitals, citing personal beliefs and previous home birth experiences. "Asma told us over the phone that she had delivered a baby boy around 6 pm," a family member said. "But by the time we were informed of her death — six hours later — it was too late. Why didn't they call us or the hospital when things went wrong?" Residents described the family as reclusive. Many were unaware that Asma was even pregnant.

Police have filed a case of unnatural death, but are not ruling out more serious charges pending the autopsy.

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05.04.2025 Sd/- Director

EDITORIAL

There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of perception — Aldous Huxley

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

LIVELIHOODS, PUBLIC INTEREST MUST MATTER FOR BIKE TAXI FUTURE

BIKE taxis have had a bumpy ride in Karnataka and now face an existential problem. They may be off the roads in Karnataka in about six weeks following a High Court order prohibiting them unless the state government frames guidelines for their operation under the Motor Vehicles Act. The court has set a three-month deadline for the government. That is a setback to Rapido, Ola, Uber, and lakhs of bike-taxi captains who have just over a month to find work in a sluggish job market. The government's main contention is that operators use bikes with white board registration instead of yellow commercial boards, which it deemed illegal. It also cited the safety of women using bike taxis, though this is a debatable point, considering that harassment is as likely, if not more, in a cab or auto. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has said the government will work out the issue, while homegrown startup Rapido is looking at legal remedies.

Since their advent in 2016, bike taxis have had a chequered history in Karnataka, running into opposition from auto and cab unions hit by this affordable and swift transport. Protests, run-ins and violence between auto drivers and Rapido captains were commonplace. Caught between them were the authorities, who would seize bike taxis to maintain peace. Adding a twist, the government introduced the Karnataka Electric Bike Taxi Scheme in 2021, allowing only electric vehicles to operate as bike taxis. However, it withdrew it in 2024, citing violations.

In Goa, bike taxis are a popular mode of transport. The state has managed to regulate 'pilots' and kept fares at an economical ₹20 for the first kilometre and ₹10 for each additional kilometre. Karnataka could study the Goa model, as the issue is as much about the drivers' livelihood as the transport choice. Instead of bowing to powerful lobbies, the authorities should consider the people's interests and allow workable economic models to flourish. With Metro fares up and auto drivers charging excessively and refusing rides, bike taxis offer a less complicated alternative. Two-wheeler safety issues are not complex to address, and operations can be streamlined. What is important is the government bearing in mind the home and hearth of bike taxi captains before it ventures to lid down the very concept of cheap commutes.

STARTUPS NEED COURSE CHANGE FOR TECH FOCUS

PIYUSH Goyal stirred a heated debate when he exhorted Indian startups to come up with ideas that can stand apart in the fast-changing world of business. The Union commerce and industry minister's concern isn't new, but the context has changed in recent weeks. India not only needs to future-proof its economy, but for now it needs weapons to fight a global trade war. China, Europe and many other top trading entities offer, at competitive prices, goods and services the world cannot do without. What is India's world-beating offering?

So, the minister understandably wants Indian startups to pivot towards high-tech industries like semiconductors, machine learning, robotics and artificial intelligence. The problem is layered—it's not just about regulatory and bureaucratic bottlenecks, as many startup bosses have pointed out since Goyal's speech. One prime problem, for which industry is as much culpable as the government, is the lack of focus on research and development. Indian startups continue to avoid spending on deep tech, which has long gestation periods.

The most successful Indian startups have copied thriving business ideas from the West: Flipkart borrowed from the Amazon model, Ola from Uber, and Oyo is an AirBnB lookalike. Zomato, India's first listed food-tech company, expanded to food delivery inspired by DoorDash and other food delivery apps overseas. Many of these startups had the first mover's advantage, they attracted funding from investors, survived competition from later entrants and lived to see the light of the day. They must be complimented for their success and maturation as viable businesses. Slushed with easy liquidity in the post-Covid era due to benign central bank monetary policies, many startups with no actual worth or problem-solving abilities received funding at higher valuations. The bubble burst and many fell by the wayside.

It is time for the Indian startup apparatus to rewire for the next maturation phase. Chinese startups also began by copying the Americans, but quickly adapted, innovated and filed their own patents. For Indian startups to revise their strategy, mainly investing in R&D and the latest tech-enabled solutions, support must come from the government, big business and other investors. Investing heavily in foundational technologies that can become building blocks for later-stage innovations would be a start. For India to achieve this, the change in approach must happen at all levels—founders, investors and policymakers.

QUICK TAKE

TECHNICALITY TROUBLE

DELHI High Court has acquitted a person who lost control of a car at high speed and fatally hit two pedestrians. The court reasoned that over-speeding doesnot necessarily amount to rash and negligent driving. Other high courts have ruled similarly in matching instances. However, it's undisputed that the barrelling car hit two people who died. That's punishable; rash and negligent driving adds to the gravity of the crime. The confusion arises because over-speeding falls under rash and negligent driving in penal laws. The two need to separate as jointly and severally, they endanger human life. A protocol can explain the technical differences for registering a case.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit is also a clear statement of India's interest in deepening ties with Sri Lanka and not relinquishing its role as the South Asian superpower

BEACH MISTRUST, RAISE SAILS FOR A FRESH BILATERAL

DILRUKSHI HANDUNNETTI

Award-winning journalist and lawyer; founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi has just concluded his fourth visit to Sri Lanka, precisely two years after the Indian Ocean island went bankrupt and its economy collapsed like a pack of cards.

As the economic crisis unfolded in April 2022, the worst ever in post-independence Sri Lanka, Delhi stepped in quickly to assist Colombo with financial and humanitarian assistance. Promptly, it provided $4 billion in financial aid and, a year later, supported the $3 billion IMF bailout program for Sri Lanka.

Two years later, on April 5, the visiting leader announced the completion of debt restructuring with Sri Lanka at significantly low interest rates, emphasising India's position as Colombo's ally. Sri Lanka owes nearly $1,400 million to both the Exim Bank of India and the State Bank of India. The timing of this announcement is noteworthy. Sri Lanka is again in a tailspin and is bracing itself for another hit on its fragile economy following US President Donald Trump imposing a 44% tariff on Sri Lankan goods, making it one of the most impacted countries.

During the three-day visit, which concluded on Sunday, Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake signed several bilateral agreements on energy cooperation, health, digitisation, and multi-sectoral assistance. They also virtually witnessed several joint projects launched, such as the controversial Sampur solar power plant, an agricultural warehouse in Dambulla, and the supply of solar rooftop systems for 5,000 religious institutions islandwide.

Thus, the Indian leader's visit came at a critical time and holds geopolitical implications reflecting the complex political history of the two nations. Despite some murmurs of protests, Sri Lankans, by and large, are grateful to the Modi administration for the critical role it played in April 2022, and Dissanayake conferring the title Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana on Prime Minister Modi is an acknowledgement of India's continued support to the neighbouring island.

Despite this recent history and the bonhomie in front of shutterbugs apart, both leaders have some repairing work to do. A trust deficit makes Sri Lankans view India with suspicion and question its motives. Not even the well-meaning and timely humanitarian assistance at a critical time and the consistent support has dulled the underlying mistrust of India's wish to exercise greater influence over Sri Lanka. On the other hand, Colombo's left-leaning new administration has a bitter and blood-soaked history with India. The main constituent of the NPP government, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), launched a second bloody insurgency in 1987-1989, demanding the withdrawal of Indian peacekeepers and pose the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which resulted in the creation of provincial councils in Sri Lanka. The armed insurrection is considered the strongest expression of anti-India sentiments. The JVP has always viewed India through the prism of pursuing a geostrategic foothold on Sri Lanka, including strategic investments in the island. The arming and training of Tamil youth to eventually demand a separate homeland in the island's north and east only added to the weight of this historical baggage. As much as Colombo finds it difficult to be genuinely friendly towards Delhi, the Indian administration, too, has to deal with the discomfort of trying to work with a government that has historically considered India to be expansionist and undermining the island's interests, geographical, political and economic.

SOURAV ROY

New Delhi is concerned about China's growing influence on the island, which drives fears around maritime security and economic interest. The visit is also a gentle reminder of India's critically beneficial role two years ago in helping resurrect the island economy, reinforces the idea of India's importance in Sri Lankan affairs, and offers a counterbalance to other external influences.

For Sri Lanka, the visit held the promise of potential advancements in multiple sectors, including energy, defence, and the economy. It allows Sri Lanka an opportunity to explore more partnerships and develop Trincomalee as a regional energy hub. Some of Sri Lanka's excessively protectionist attitudes may have hindered its potential to grow and access Indian markets. It also allows both countries to focus on mutual respect and cooperation and treat the apprehensions as modern states contributing to each other's growth and advancement through equitable partnerships.

Delhi intends to counterbalance China's expanding footprint in Sri Lanka and address its presence in the Indian Ocean through the massive investments made on the island. The visit is also a clear statement of India's interest in deepening ties with Sri Lanka and not relinquishing its role as the South Asian superpower.

In recent years, India has contributed to multiple projects in Sri Lanka. However, some have run into strong opposition from local groups, particularly trade unions affiliated with the JVP. At the same time, India was seen as aggressively pursuing an economic program without considering the public sentiments. The public and civil society strongly opposed projects like the East Container Terminal deal and Gautam Adani's controversial renewable energy project, eventually driving cancellation or withdrawal.

Despite the recent history of pushbacks, the visit, according to political analysts, offers a fresh opportunity for both countries to find ways to re-engage with each other in a transparent manner that earns public trust.

The just-concluded visit also reminds of the absence of permanent friends or enemies in politics. It may be ironic that a president who leads a political party that led violent protests demanding the withdrawal of Indian peacekeepers from the island accused the big neighbour of having a permanent policy of interventionist politics. For all intents and purposes, it may be a case of political prudence and maturity that caused President Dissanayake to confer the highest recognition accorded to a foreign head of state to Narendra Modi. Moving forward, strategic engagements that do not undermine the sovereignty of the smaller neighbour and let go of undue suspicions of the giant neighbour may allow the opportunity to rewrite the bilateral history of a new kind.

(Views are personal)

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WHY BUDDHISM FADED IN THE LAND OF ITS BIRTH

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH the Thai government presenting our prime minister with the *Tipitaka*, I thought it would be nice to revisit Buddhism this week. *Tipitaka*, in Pali, as in *Tripitaka* in Sanskrit, means 'Three Baskets' and refers to the scriptures of Theravada Buddhism, comprising three collections: the *Vinaya Pitaka* (Sangha rules), the *Sutta Pitaka* (teachings and discourses), and the *Abhidhamma Pitaka* (philosophical commentaries).

The *Tipitaka* is considered the earliest collection of Buddhist teachings. The *Vinaya Pitaka* contains the monastic rules and regulations for monks and nuns. The *Sutta Pitaka* or *Sutra Pitaka* comprises the Buddha's discourses and teachings and those of his enlightened disciples. The *Abhidhamma Pitaka* explains and analyses Buddhist doctrines and philosophical concepts.

Scholars have noted that three specific signs—the Bodhi tree (pipal), the dharma chakra, and the stupa—occur frequently at all major Buddhist sites in North India, and thus concluded that the earliest Buddhist cult practice focused on these.

There is no *Ishwara* or God in Buddhism (or Jainism). Buddhism is a non-theistic religion, meaning it doesn't recognise a creator god or a deity who intervenes in the world. Instead, it focuses on personal enlightenment and the Buddha's concept of a path to liberation from suffering. However, Buddhism later incorporated deities into its cosmology. A particularly popular one is the benign goddess Tara.

As in Hinduism, Buddhists believe in reincarnation and the law of karma, where one's actions determine one's future life. The concept of the *Bodhisattvas* embodies this belief, a *Bodhisattva* being Gautama Buddha in his former life. The *Jataka* stories largely pertain to the *Bodhisattvas*.

Buddhism is not a vegetarian religion. Buddhist cultures across Asia are non-vegetarian, and the Buddha himself is said to have died an agonising death from dysentery after eating spoiled pork. The Dalai Lama, a prominent modern Buddhist figure, eats meat. Vegetarianism is a personal choice without judgment.

As in Hinduism, elephants are revered in Buddhism as symbols of fortune and protection. They are featured in important *Jataka* tales, some of which you may recall from my earlier piece, *Elephant Jatakas with a Timeless Message* (Sept 11, 2023). Golden fish, shown in pairs, are also considered lucky in Southeast Asian Buddhism, representing salvation from suffering and fertility.

Buddhists and Hindus can freely marry each other in India without religious or legal restrictions. In ancient times, families often followed different Dharma religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism—evident from household shrines in a single home.

AFP

Hinduism's focus on joy and God contrasted with Buddhism's austere practices and lack of a personal deity. Additionally, Buddhism's monastic demands disrupted societal structures, making it impractical

Later, Sikhism and Hinduism shared deep mutuality and interconnectedness.

The most famous ancient example of this Indian religious fluidity is Ilango Adigal, the Jain prince who authored the Tamil epic *Silappadikaram* in the 2nd century CE. His friend, Shattan or Sattanaar, authored *Manimekhalai*, a sequel to *Silappadikaram* that was essentially Buddhist propaganda. And who was the patron of both authors but Ilango Adigal's elder brother, the Hindu king Cheran Senguttuvan?

Buddhism's two routes around Asia developed distinct sectarian characteristics—hill Buddhism and sea Buddhism. Whatever their differences, though, all Buddhists revere the Buddha as their central figure.

However, one needs to do some plain speaking on the theory that "Hindus drove Buddhism away." This is nonsense. It was certainly a turf war for royal and public patronage between Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism in those days. But let's look at the facts on the ground.

Due to his unnaturally protected early life, the Buddha suffered a severe shock when he first saw an old man, a sick man, and a dead man. He parlayed his gut reaction as his credo—that 'all is suffering, all is momentary': *sarvam dukhamdukham, sarvam kshanikam kshanikam*. This lost its impact over the years because it is opposed to the driving principle of Hinduism, which is Ananda, joy.

Hindus consider human birth a golden chance to escape rebirth and dissolve into the light of God. A Hindu's spiritual goal is *Sat Chit Ananda*, usually translated as 'truth-consciousness-bliss', the transcending joy of realising God's presence in everything. *Ananda* is why Indians are so celebratory, always singing, dancing, and feasting. But there is no music or dance in sober traditional Buddhism, only chanting. This went against the inherent Indian cultural grain.

Secondly, the visceral human need to love a 'Face' was not satisfied in Buddhism, which lacked Ishwara. As Tulsidas later had Bharata tell Kaikeyi, "*Janani, main nahiyoon bin Ram*," Mother, I cannot live without Rama, expressing popular sentiment.

The third and perhaps most critical reason was that although one could be a lay Buddhist, Buddhism also wanted to remove able-bodied men in their prime from society, to turn them into monks who lived on the dole. Who was supposed to do the work, then? Who was left to protect the family? It was dangerous and impractical for society. And so, Buddhism gradually faded in the land of its birth.

Buddhist missionaries learnt from this and softened their approach abroad. They led good, helpful lives and attracted the public by example, which is how Buddhism took root and flourished across Asia. They often combined other faiths with the Dhamma and the Sangha. That's how our prime minister saw the *Ramakien* dance and received the *Tipitaka* in Thailand.

(Views are personal)

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Modi's statecraft

Ref: *The world is Modi's oyster* (Apr 6). The title of the column aptly captures Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statecraft. He has surpassed Manmohan Singh's record in international diplomacy and politics. His focus on showcasing Indian culture, technology, and diplomacy, alongside strategic outreach and partnerships, sustains his popularity and global approval ratings.
Katragadda Sarveswara Rao, Bhubaneswar

Crypto trap

Ref: *Cryptocurrencies emerge from the fringe* (Apr 6). Cryptocurrency is not regulated by any country or central bank. It differs vastly from traditional currency. In India, millions of people have suffered financial losses investing in it. With no legal protection for crypto payments and no recognition from the RBI, people should avoid such risky investments until regulations are clear.
Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Waqf reform

Ref: *Waqf must hold up promise of development* (Apr 6). The Waqf Board now has the potential to become a genuine instrument of development. However, it is unfortunate that for a long time, many poor Muslims were unaware of the existence or purpose of Waqf Boards, as these institutions remained largely in the hands of elite sections. Now, awareness will increase.
Manicklal Chakraborty, email

Landmark agreement

Ref: *India, Sri Lanka ink 1st ever defence agreement* (Apr 6). The defence cooperation pact signed with Sri Lanka during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit marks a major stride in bolstering regional security. Strategic partnerships like this are vital for peace and stability in the Indian Ocean region.
J Bharghav, Vijayawada

Good initiative

Ref: *Eco-friendly benches made of 9L recycled bottles* (Apr 6). The story on Uttarakhand sports minister Rekha Arya's intitiave to collect and recycle empty water bottles used by athletes and attendees made for an interesting read. This attitude must reach every nook and corner of the country.
H P Murali, Bengaluru

Comparing debt

Ref: *Showing a mirror to the state* (Apr 6). Kerala, despite strong social development, faces mounting debt, while fiscally prudent Odisha still lags in key indicators. This underscores the need to look beyond GDP when comparing debt and deficit across states.
Anjali Haridas, Trippunithura

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Mamata Banerjee @MamataOfficial
Glad to share that West Bengal is progressing in its own resource mobilisation efforts, evident from the fiscal results compiled at the end of the FY 2024-25.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Only the protector of human values is civilised. And only the civilised builds a 'civilisation'. On the other hand, those who are uncivilised destroy it.

Bhagwant Mann @BhagwantMann
Many greetings to all of you on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. May Lord Shri Ram ji shower his blessings upon all of you.

● BJP plans nationwide campaign to dispel confusions on legislation ● April 8-9 session to be party's 6th in state

No hidden agenda on Waqf boards, law for welfare, says Nadda

BJP president JP Nadda being felicitated on the party's foundation day, in New Delhi on Sunday | EXPRESS

We have never deviated from our ideological foundation for votes, unlike the Congress, which has suffered due to 'ideological dilution

JP Nadda, BJP president

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ New Delhi

BJP national president JP Nadda on Sunday categorically stated that the Modi government has no hidden agenda behind amending the Waqf system. This comes a day after President Droupadi Murmu accorded her assent to the Bill, which was passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Speaking at his party's 45th foundation day, coinciding with Ram Navami, Nadda asserted, "Our goal is not to control Waqf Boards. The Centre aims to ensure they operate within the law, so that their assets can be used to promote education, healthcare, and employment for the Muslim community on a large scale." He also referred to the stance of several Muslim-majority countries, including Turkey, on Waqf properties under their control.

Notably, the BJP, through its Minority Morcha, is also planning to launch a nationwide 'Waqf Chetna Abhiyan' (Waqf Awareness campaign) across Muslim-dominated areas to educate them about the benefits of the amendments in the Bill, amid growing opposition protests and recent moves to the Supreme Court against the Bill by some political parties.

Nadda also lashed out at Congress and other opposition parties for their anti-Bill stance. Describing the BJP as deeply rooted in India's traditions, culture, and political ideology, Nadda outlined the party's growth from its origins with the Jansangh to its current status as the world's largest party with over 10 lakh active members.

"We have never deviated from our ideological foundation for votes, unlike the Congress, which has suffered due to 'ideological dilution.' Our founding stalwarts like Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and others made the party dedicated to the nation and the New Bharat," he said.

Highlighting the BJP's strength, Nadda stated that the party now has 240 members in the Lok Sabha, 98 in the Rajya Sabha, and over 1,600 MLAs across the country. "We've just concluded our membership drive, and our number has surpassed 13.5 crore. We now have more than 10 lakh active party workers," he added, asserting that the BJP is the only political party that has witnessed "scientific growth."

Dig at Cong over Shah Bano case

BJP chief Nadda accused the Congress of appeasement politics in the Shah Bano case. Under then-PM Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress succumbed to pressure from certain Muslim groups, disregarding the Supreme Court's call for emancipation of Muslim women.

AICC Gujarat meet to focus on bolstering party organisation

Land of Gandhi and Patel

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's party presidency and the 150th birth anniversary of Patel, both iconic figures born in Gujarat. It will also be the Congress's third session in Ahmedabad since its formation in 1885.

First meet in Gujarat in 1902

Congress first met in Gujarat at Ahmedabad from Dec 23 to 26, 1902, under Surendranath Banerjee's presidency. In his presidential address that touched upon several issues, Banerjee had said, "All history proclaims the truth that autocratic power is devoid of elements of permanence and that authority to be permanent must be planted deep in the affections of the people."

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AS the Congress gears up for Tuesday's All India Congress Committee (AICC) session in Ahmedabad, it will focus on strengthening the party organisationally and reviving its past glory. Tracing the party's long-standing connection with Gujarat, AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said that the session on April 8-9 will be the party's sixth in the state and the second post-independence.

The session will be themed "Nyaypath: Sankalp, Samarpan and Sangharsh," and more than 1,700 elected and co-opted AICC members will attend the main conclave on April 9. On April 8, the extended Congress Working Committee will meet at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's party presidency and the 150th birth anniversary of Patel, both iconic figures born in Gujarat. It will also be the Congress's third session in Ahmedabad since its formation in 1885. In a post on X, Ramesh shared the official records of the past sessions held in Gujarat, which shed light on the historic presidential addresses at the sessions from Surendranath Banerjee in 1902, who talked about autocratic power being devoid of the elements of permanence, to Subhas Chandra Bose in 1938, who dismissed as "entirely erroneous" the argument that the Congress should wither away after independence.

The Congress first met in Gujarat at Ahmedabad from December 23 to 26, 1902, under Banerjee's presidency. In his long presidential address that touched upon several issues,

Banerjee had said, "All history proclaims the truth that autocratic power is devoid of the elements of permanence and that authority to be permanent must be planted deep in the affections of the people and derive its sustaining breath from the vitalising springs of popular enthusiasm." "Despotic rule represents a stage of transition, the period of which should not be unnecessarily prolonged. But transition must give place to permanence. All signs point to the conclusion that the period of reconstruction has now arrived," he said.

A total of 471 delegates attended the session. The second time the Congress met in Gujarat was at Surat from December 26 to 27, 1907, under the presidentship of Rash Behary Ghose. This session was historic as it witnessed the first split in the party and was marked by internal tensions among the moderate and extremist factions. Around 1,600 delegates attended it.

At the 23rd session of the Congress at Surat, the moderate and extremist factions clashed, resulting in the party's first split. The third time the Congress met in Gujarat was again at Ahmedabad during December 27-28, 1921 under the presidentship of Hakim Ajmal Khan.

INSIDER TRACK

Accommodating Annamalai!

Now that police-turned-politico K Annamalai has tendered his resignation from the post of Tamil Nadu BJP president, there is much speculation in saffron party corridors on whether the former IPS officer is being considered for a seat in the Rajya Sabha or a key role in the central leadership. While the development comes amid growing rumours of a potential BJP-AIADMK alliance, party functionaries in New Delhi find themselves anxiously awaiting clarity on the role the leadership has in mind for Annamalai. Some suggest that the latter's expertise in electoral strategy makes him ideal for a prominent organisational role. Others speculate that Annamalai stepping down might have been strategically prompted by the HQ as part of a broader plan to align with the AIADMK. Annamalai could be fielded in the Tamil Nadu assembly polls next year, many believe. Or, the BJP could be scouting an articulate and impactful speaker to firmly make the party's case in the Upper House against vociferous Opposition leaders from southern states. What awaits Annamalai, only time will tell.

Chile Prez stunned by his welcome!

The 39-year-old President of Chile, Boric Font, could barely contain his curiousity and amazement as he arrived in India on a state visit and found himself transfixed by the country's vastness and diversity. As part of his welcome, the capital was adorned with flags of the visiting State and pictures of dignitaries. The President's image came up on Kartavya Path. Font humorously told a group of Latin American diplomats that it was slightly awkward to see his own face everywhere; 'humbled by the warm reception,' he told dignataries. Font, who prefers sitting in the front seat of his car during visits, was in much awe at the two grand welcomes he recieved within an hour of his arrival to India: the ceremonial guard of honor, and the warm, traditional greeting at his hotel, complete with an 'aarti' and 'sindur' tilak' on his forehead. Later, he admitted that even after five days, it was impossible to fully appreciate the cultural richness of India.

Who is the next CBI chief?

With the two-year term of incumbent Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Praveen Sood coming to an end next month, the North Block races to find a replacement. The grapevine suggests that the government may once again pull a surprise by selecting the CBI chief from among senior IPS officers, who have no prior experience with the CBI, as it did in case of Sood, a 1986-batch officer of Karnataka cadre. Sood had never served with the CBI until he was chosen as its director owing to his experience in the state vigilance department. Presently, 1989-batch IPS of MP cadre Ajay Sharma, with a very decorated stint as DGP, Economic Offences Wing of MP police, and 1988-batch IPS of Tamil Nadu cadre Sanjay Arora, long considered the 'Operation Man' in state and central police forces and presently serving as Delhi Police Commissioner, are considered front-runners to replace Sood as CBI director.

Is PM's PS heading to London?

With 2014-batch Indian Foreign Service officer Nidhi Tiwari taking over as the new Private Secretary (PS) to the Prime Minister, there are talks that incumbent PS **Vivek Kumar**, a 2004-batch IFS officer, is set for a move to London as Deputy High Commissioner at the Indian mission there. Incidentally, Tiwari joined the service in 2014 when her predecessor Kumar was moved to the Prime Minister's Office as Deputy Secretary. During his tenure in the PMO, Kumar was empanelled to the level of Joint Secretary and subsequently appointed as the PS to the Prime Minister in May 2022 replacing 1997-batch IFS officer Sanjeev Kumar Singla, who wasa then appointed India's

Indian stabbed to death in Canada, suspect held

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

A 27-year-old Indian national, identified as Dharmesh Kathireeya, was stabbed to death on Friday in a township near Ottawa, Canada's capital. Though it is suspected to be a racially motivated attack, the authorities have so far denied that angle.

Kathireeya, who had moved to Canada in 2019 as an international student, was attacked in his apartment building in Rockland, a township located just outside Ottawa.

The incident occurred in the afternoon when Kathireeya was exiting a common laundry room in the building. According to witnesses, he was stabbed by a neighbour — a White man in his sixties — with a history of using racial slurs for Kathireeya and his wife. Kathireeya, who originally hailed from Gujarat's Bhavnagar district, had been staying in Canada on a work permit. He was an employee of Milano Pizza Rockland. The pizza restaurant has been temporarily shut in view of his death. The outlet wrote on social media, "It is with deep sadness that we announce the temporary closure of Milano Pizza. Our beloved manager, Dharmesh, tragically passed away in a terrible incident on April 4."

An online fundraiser launched in Kathireeya's memory described the attack as a "senseless and unprovoked hate crime". The fundraiser's message stated, "It is with profound sadness and heartbreak that we share the tragic and sudden loss of our dear friend, Dharmesh. The violence that ended his life has left his family, friends, and the entire community in shock and mourning." The alleged attacker was taken into police custody shortly after the incident. However, his identity has not been disclosed. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the stabbing.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa wrote, "We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of an Indian national in Rockland near Ottawa due to a stabbing. Police have stated that a suspect has been taken into custody. We are in close contact with a local community association to provide all possible assistance to the bereaved family."

Assistance to bereaved

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa wrote, "We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of an Indian national in Rockland near Ottawa due to a stabbing. We are in contact with a local community association to provide assistance to the bereaved."

Diabetes-linked vision loss fear looms large, experts seek Ayushman care

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

AS India is dubbed the diabetic capital of the world, there is a growing concern that diabetic retinopathy (DR), an eye condition that can cause vision loss and blindness in people who have diabetes, will increase in the next two decades in the country.

With approximately 1 in 3 people with diabetes said to develop diabetic retinopathy (DR), which usually impacts visual impairment in the working age group, and 10% of vision-threatening Diabetic Macular Edema , experts said there is an urgent need for the union government to include its treatments under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ab-PM-JAY).

Speaking with this paper, Dr Rupak Kanti Biswas, Director and Consultant VR surgeon at Netralayam Eye Hospital, Kolkata, said that if a person has had type 2 diabetes for more than 20 years, then 70% of those individuals will be affected by diabetic retinopathy.

"The majority of diabetes cases are now in people below 50 years. So, in their lifetime, they will develop diabetic retinopathy. Seventy to eighty per cent of them will develop it. That's huge," he said.

Biswas, who was here to attend the just concluded 40th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress, emphasised that treating the disease at an early stage is key.

"The most important aspect of treatment is preventing blindness. Preventable blindness is a key focus, and time is a critical factor. The earlier the intervention, the better the outcomes. Once a preventable condition progresses to an irreversible stage, it can no longer be classified as preventable blindness. This is why timely intervention is crucial in managing diabetic retinopathy," he said.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study, an estimated 101.3 million people in India have diabetes, and 136 million are prediabetics. Alarmingly, over 57% remain undiagnosed, increasing risks of complications like diabetic retinopathy (DR) - affecting 12.5% of adults over 40 years.

Initially, laser treatment was the only option. However, Dr Biswas said that introducing intravitreal injections has been a game-changer.

Currently, only the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and some states provide insurance coverage to treat DR. The cost of treatment varies widely, depending on the drug used. Currently, the price of a single injection can range from ₹6,000 to ₹60,000, depending on the medication.

Punjab Basmati rice exporters may feel tariff pinch

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

THE recent decision by US President Donald Trump to impose a 26 percent tariff on basmati rice imports from India is expected to severely impact exporters and farmers in Punjab, India's top basmati-producing state. Punjab contributes nearly 40 percent of the country's basmati production, followed by Haryana and other states.

This tariff, effective from April 9, could derail India's basmati shipments to the US, which imported around 3.08 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) from India in 2023-24. The US is among the top five importers of Indian basmati, alongside Iran (7 LMT), Saudi Arabia (11 LMT), Iraq (8 LMT), and Yemen (3 LMT). Total basmati exports from India stood at 59.42 LMT in 2023-24. Many consignments already en route to the US now face uncertainty, as the new tariff makes Indian basmati significantly costlier.

"The buyers want us to bear the 26 percent import duty, around USD 300 per tonne. US importers typically buy at USD 1,100 per tonne and this sudden hike is not sustainable for them," said Ranjit Singh Jossan, vice-president of the Basmati Rice Miller and Exporter Association. With existing deals now stalled, Indian exporters are being forced to reroute shipments to other countries at reduced prices. Jossan said that this could lead to a loss of market share for India, while giving Pakistan a competitive edge. "The Pakistani rupee is already heavily devalued (Rs 280 per US dollar compared to Rs 85.50 in India), making their basmati cheaper. Also, their farmers use fewer pesticides due to smaller landholdings, giving them an edge in meeting international residue standards. The importers from US might shift to Pakistan as it is an cheaper alternative," he said. Pesticide residue has been a persistent issue for Indian basmati, especially with the US, EU and other countries tightening their minimum residue levels (MRLs), further curbing exports from Punjab. Jossan said, "Nearly 50 percent of India's basmati exports are controlled by four major business houses, all of which source heavily from Punjab. The state has also become a key processing hub, with over 210 basmati units, up from 80 in the past four years, handling both local and out-of-state produce."

"Punjab leads in steam rice production, along with parboiled, raw and golden rice. Any drop in exports will impact procurement and earnings for farmers here," he added. Punjab alone accounts for 35 to 40 percent of India's basmati exports, with Haryana and other states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh also contributing.

The reduced US demand is likely to push procurement prices down, directly impacting farmers who rely on basmati as a high-value cash crop.

Pakistan's rice exports are on the rise

While India may suffer, Pakistan's rice exports, especially basmati, are on the rise, touching 6 million metric tonnes in 2023-24, up from 3.7 MMT in 2022-23. "The Pakistani rupee is already heavily devalued (Rs 280 per US dollar compared to Rs 85.50 in India), making their basmati cheaper. Also, their farmers use fewer pesticides due to smaller landholdings, giving them an edge," said Ranjit Singh Jossan,

HIGH TENSION

Tensions prevailed in Vibharapur village in Uttar Pradesh after local residents clashed with police over the removal of the statues of BR Ambedkar and Lord Buddha from a government land, police said on Sunday.

4 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN BIHAR'S BUXAR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	26	Mumbai	35	27
Bhopal	39	23	Panaji	35	27
Jaipur	41	27	Patna	36	27
Amritsar	37	22	Lucknow	38	24
Chennai	32	29	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	35	28	Imphal	29	17
Srinagar	24	10	Chandigarh	37	22

Security shields Ram Navami rallies

Tension flares in Bengal as arms brandished during processions; BJP, TMC trade barbs

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

AMID heightened security, Ram Navami celebrations were marked by political tension and instances of open display of arms in parts of West Bengal, sparking a fresh war of words between the BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress.

In Kolkata alone, more than 70 rallies were carried out, prompting the deployment of nearly 4,000 to 5,000 police personnel. Drones and CCTV surveillance were used extensively to monitor the situation.

Quick response teams were stationed in sensitive areas such as Entally, Cossipore, Khidderpore, and Chitpore.

Celebrations began across the state on Sunday morning with processions, devotional music, saffron flags, and tableaux depicting scenes from the Ramayana. However, several rallies reported open display of weapons. In Malda, a large procession started from Ramakrishna Palli Maidan with participants openly brandishing swords and other arms.

Similar scenes were reported from Sankrail in Howrah, where organisers allegedly did not have official permission to carry weapons. Police sources confirmed that legal action is likely to be taken for violating the event's terms.

People take part in a procession on Ram Navami in West Bengal on Sunday | PTI

Response teams stationed in sensitive areas

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Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh stirred controversy by defending the presence of arms at religious processions. "What's wrong if someone carries a weapon?" he asked. Targeting Jadavpur University, Ghosh added, "If slogans like 'Bharat tere tukde honge' can be tolerated, what's the problem with chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' in Jadavpur?"

BJP state president Sukanta Majumder said, "Any attempts to forcefully halt the celebrations won't be tolerated. Ram Navami celebrations will be held." In New Town, BJP leader Locket Chatterjee claimed her Ram Navami rally was stopped by police, prompting a change in route. She was seen engaging in a heated argument with police personnel after the procession was halted near Keshtopur on the city's northern fringes.

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, after laying the foundation stone of a Ram Mandir in his Nandigram assembly constituency in East Midnapore, said, "The TMC is afraid of Hindus and that is why in various parts of the state they are trying to create unrest."

The Trinamool Congress accused the BJP of trying to communalise the religious occasion. "The BJP is trying to turn Ram Navami into a political event. They are not into the politics of development. They want politics over religion and create some sort of disturbance. Bengal will not tolerate this," said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh.

This year's Ram Navami celebrations are being held against the backdrop of recent incidents of violence against Hindus in neighbouring Bangladesh and the politically charged run-up to the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections.

Shah in J&K for security review, asks party MLAs to be assertive in House

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AMID the face-off between Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah, Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday arrived in Jammu on a three-day J&K visit to review the UT's security and developmental scenario. On the first day, Shah met the party leaders in Jammu and devised a strategy for the remaining part of the budget session of J&K Assembly beginning from Monday.

He was received at the airport by the L-G and Union MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh and BJP leaders. It is Shah's first visit to J&K after Omar Abdullah led government assumed power in October last year.

After a brief stopover at Raj Bhawan, Shah visited BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and interacted with party legislators.

"The BJP legislators informed the HM that they have very vociferously foiled every attempt of the ruling party and other legislators of raising contentious Article 370 issue," BJP sources said.

The party legislators also informed him that the budget session of J&K Assembly will resume on Monday after a 12-day long break.

The resumption of three-day remaining Budget session from tomorrow is likely to be stormy as the ruling-NC and its alliance members are mulling to move joint adjournment motion seeking suspension of the business on Monday to discuss the passage of Waqf Amendment Bill and transfer of 48 J&K Administrative (JKAS) officers by Sinha on Eid without taking the CM into confidence.

Sources said if Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather agrees on the adjournment motion, the session may be extended by a day or two. The HM would visit BSF BOP Vinay in Kathua on Monday morning. Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma said the HM took feedback from MLAs about security situation. He was also apprised about narco terrorism and drug mafia. The HM has assured them that terrorism in J&K will be crushed. He also guided them on ways to deal with the J&K govt's "unconstitutional" resolutions in the Assembly.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
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Journos shunted out of state secretariat now?

Gone are the good, old days when a scribe working on a story could enter the Mantralaya, the administrative headquarters of the state government, by showing their ID card. Now, only the individuals authorised to enter the Mantralaya by the state's Chief Secretary and Home Department for a specific purpose can gain entry into the premises. The move comes as a big blow to journalists who need access to the secretariat to effectively cover the relevant beat. On top of that, a circular was recently issued that laid down that journalists could visit the Mantralaya only after 2 pm. Luckily, it was withdrawn later.

When the neta called in sick to enjoy a show

Have you ever called in sick so you could attend a concert or party? Well, it seems like our political leaders are not above playing truant either. NCP leader Dhananjay Munde raised eyebrows when he skipped Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's recent Beed tour citing health issues but ended up attending a fashion show in Mumbai instead. "I was supposed to be there for the Deputy CM's visit. However, as my health remains unstable, I had to come to Mumbai for treatment," Munde wrote. But his excuse didn't cut ice with social media users, who saw videos of him attending the show.

Cong dist chiefs to now have a say in decisions

The Congress party recently called a meeting of its Maharashtra district presidents in Delhi. In the meeting, the district chiefs were told that they would be regularly consulted with for state-level decisions. This reportedly marks a departure from the norm. For long, the district bosses never had any say in key party decisions. The Congress high command has decided to involve these local party heads in important decisions because it sees them as the pillars of party structure. The Congress leadership believes taking into account their views and suggestions can help revive the party and boost the confidence of the workers as well.

'Lack of communication': Sanjeev Sanyal reinstated as Chancellor of GIPE

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

TWO days after removing economist Sanjeev Sanyal, the Servants of India Society (SIS), which manages the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE), has reinstated him, apologising for the mistake due to miscommunication.

Earlier, Sanyal, a member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic council, was removed by SIS, citing poor performance at GIPE and a downgrade in its National Accreditation rating from A to B.

However, within two days, the SIS trustees reversed their decision and sent a letter to Sanyal informing him of his reappointment. The letter was shared by Sanyal on his social media account.

The letter, written by SIS president Damodar Sahu, expressed regret over the miscommunication and confirmed that the trustees had unanimously decided to reinstate him as Chancellor of GIPE.

It reads, "I am thankful to you that you have very gracious furnishing of a detailed explanation to all my concerns, written in my letter. From the content of your letter, I came to know and became satisfied that, as the Chancellor of our

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, you have decided to take suitable steps in enhancing and protecting the glory of Gokhale Institute. Sanjeev Ji, this misunderstanding happened due to lack of communication between you and the Servants of India Society."

It further says "Let me inform you that, by the time after receipt of your letter, I have discussed the matter with my fellow trustees in details. It gives me great satisfaction and relief to convey to you, that, the trustees are of the unanimous opinion that, the letter given to you by me ought to be withdrawn with immediate effect. Now, I, on behalf of the Servants of India Society, request you to consider my previous letter to be null and void and shoulder the responsibility of GIPE as the Chancellor as before."

Ahead of Rahul's Bihar trip, AICC rep meets Lalu

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

AICC in-charge for Bihar Krishna Allavaru met RJD chief Lalu Prasad in New Delhi to enquire about his health and discuss seat allocation to INDIA bloc partners in the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections, a day before Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to the state on Monday.

Sources in Congress said that Allavaru called on RJD supremo Lalu Prasad at AIIMS-Delhi and inquired about his health. Lalu was flown to AIIMS-Delhi last week when health condition deteriorated.

Allavaru is learnt to have discussed allocation of seats to INDIA bloc partners in the Bihar assembly elections scheduled to be held in October-November this year.

It was Allavaru's first meeting with Lalu after being appointed Bihar in-charge of Congress. Allavaru, however, parried questions on seat-sharing among INDIA bloc partners and CM face of the Opposition in Bihar against NDA's Nitish Kumar.

The Congress leader said the elections would be contested on the issues of development and secularism. "Development of Bihar and secularism will play crucial role in the ensuing assembly elections," he said.

CRPF seeks firing range to power Naxal fight in C'garh

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH the security forces aggressively engaged in back-to-back encounters with Naxals in Chhattisgarh, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) ground commanders have requested their top bosses to seek permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to allow it to have a dedicated 'Field Firing Range' in the state.

The request has come in the backdrop of the absence of such a facility to exercise.

According to sources, during a recent meeting, a decision has been taken to look for a possibility of establishing a firing range facility for exercise purposes in Chhattisgarh for the personnel of the CRPF.

The requirement has been necessitated following the deadline set by Home Minister Amit Shah to completely eradicate 'Red' violence in the country, the sources said, adding that since the request has been brought to the notice of CRPF Director General GP Singh, the ground commanders are asked to present a draft proposal to the force's headquarters here.

A source said, "Keeping in view large CRPF deployment in Chhattisgarh a need has been felt to have Field Firing Range. At present, the battalions deployed in the state have to travel to another state for field firing exercise."

Keeping in view the large CRPF deployment in Chhattisgarh, there is a need of a Field Firing Range. At present, the battalions deployed in the state have to travel to another state for field firing exercise — Official

Meanwhile, since the Chhattisgarh Police has its Field Firing Range in Kanker, the ground commanders have been directed to coordinate with the state police to avail the facility.

Besides, the firing range, the CRPF is also working on to set up a Research & Development (R&D) wing for the force to help them analyse ongoing activities in operational areas and suggest modernisation plan to address future challenges, the sources said, adding that the 'Training Wing' of the force has been directed look into it.

As per the data available with the MHA this year alone, the security forces in the Bastar range have encountered 101 Naxals, with 50 percent of these encounters taking place within a period of 10 days in March.

The MHA in one of its recent official statements said, the strict implementation of policies has led to reduction in incidents of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) violence, from their highest level of 1,936 in 2010 to 374 in 2024, marking a reduction of 81 per cent.

The total number of deaths has decreased by 85 per cent during this period, from 1,005 in 2010 to 150 in 2024.

94 blazes in 11 days; J&K battles forest fire surge

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AT least 94 incidents of forest fire were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in the last 11 days, raising serious concerns about environmental safety in the union territory (UT). The surge in forest fires not only poses a threat to J&K's biodiversity but also jeopardises the safety of local communities and infrastructure.

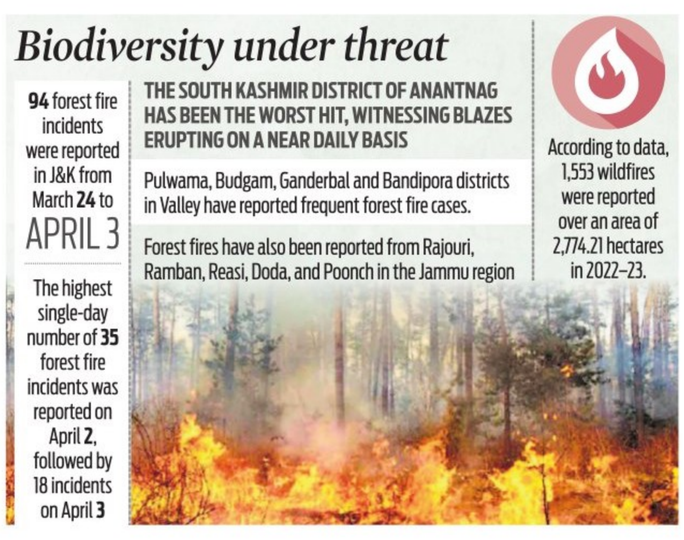
Official sources said 94 forest fire incidents were reported in J&K from March 24 to April 3.

The incidents have been reported in 15 out of the 20 districts in J&K.

The highest single-day number of 35 forest fire incidents was reported on April 2, followed by 18 incidents on April 3.

The south Kashmir district of Anantnag has been the worst hit, witnessing blazes erupting on a near daily basis. The Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora districts in the Valley have also reported frequent forest fire cases.

Forest fires have also been reported from Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Doda, and Poonch in the Jammu region.


Biodiversity under threat
94 forest fire incidents were reported in J&K from March 24 to APRIL 3
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THE SOUTH KASHMIR DISTRICT OF ANANTNAG HAS BEEN THE WORST HIT, WITNESSING BLAZES ERUPTING ON A NEAR DAILY BASIS
Pulwama, Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora districts in Valley have reported frequent forest fire cases.
Forest fires have also been reported from Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Doda, and Poonch in the Jammu region
According to data, 1,553 wildfires were reported over an area of 2,774.21 hectares in 2022–23.

In view of the alarming surge in wildfires, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued two active forest fire alerts for the UT.

One of the alerts — valid till April 10 — warns of an "extreme forest fire risk" near Purmandal and Kathua.

The NDMA has issued an advisory advising people not to smoke near areas that have vegetation. Besides, the authorities have urged residents not to panic if a fire suddenly breaks out. They have also cautioned locals against entering a forest when a fire is raging.

The NDMA has urged those engaging in adventure activities to not leave bonfires unattended and called on residents to keep windows and vents shut. The authorities have also advised people living near forest areas to untie livestock, remove flammable materials from yards and avoid trying to outrun a blaze.

"In case of an emergency, seeking refuge in a pond or river is recommended. If there's no water body nearby, lying in a low area with wet clothing or soil may offer temporary protection from flames and smoke," the NDMA has said.

This rise in forest fires has caught the attention of environmentalists, who are calling for a more robust approach to disaster management, including improved fire prevention strategies, better equipment, and more comprehensive awareness programmes to arrest the alarming trend.

According to official data, a total of 1,553 wildfires were reported over an area of 2,774.21 hectares in 2022–23. The number then dropped to 607 blazes covering an area of 987.24 hectares in 2023–24.

More recently, the union territory witnessed at least 1,243 forest fire incidents affecting an area of 3,503.7 hectares in 2024–25. Officials say the government has taken a number of steps, including the constitution of a state-level monitoring panel, to review the progress made on the issue.

544 accident-prone spots identified for Char Dham Yatra in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

WITH the Char Dham Yatra set to begin later this month, the authorities concerned in Uttarakhand have identified 544 accident-prone spots along the routes of pilgrimage across four districts.

In view of this, the transport headquarters has issued a letter to the National Highways Authority of India, Border Roads Organisation and the Public Works Department, urging immediate action in these areas and requesting a report on the measures taken.

In a bid to enhance safety and ensure a smooth pilgrimage experience for the Yatra, government sources reveal, road safety committees in Dehradun, Haridwar, Uttarkashi, Tehri, Pauri, Rudraprayag and Chamoli districts have been directed to conduct surveys.

According to these committees, a total of 544 accident-prone areas have been identified that require immediate attention. The report highlights

that there are 38 such areas in Haridwar, 65 in Chamoli, 297 in Tehri and 144 in Dehradun's Vikas Nagar and Rishikesh regions.

Sources indicate that the safety measures recommended for these routes include traffic calming interventions, rumble strips, informational signage, pothole repairs, chevron boards, crash barriers, road markings, reflectors, the removal of debris along the roads and addressing unauthorised median openings & blind curves.

In a notable first, this year's Char Dham travel routes have been divided into 15 super zones, 41 zones, and 137 sectors. Speaking to this daily, Dehradun Traffic SP Lokjeet Singh stated, "Each sector will cover an area of 10 kilometres. Police personnel will be on patrol 24 hours a day, ensuring safety and order." He added, "Over six thousand police officers and staff will be deployed to manage security and traffic throughout the pilgrimage route."

Notably, registrations for the Yatra have now surpassed an impressive 12.5 lakh.

Yogendra Gangwar, the nodal officer from the Uttarakhand Tourism Department overseeing Char Dham yatra registrations, told TNIE, "We have recorded 3,674 registrations for Kedarnath, 3,045 for Badrinath, 1,918 for Yamunotri and 2,105 for Gangotri from foreign visitors." The online registration process, which requires Aadhaar verification, began on March 20.

'Will shelter UK businesses from Trump tariffs'

Nobody wins from a trade war, says Keir Starmer; Jaguar Land Rover to pause shipments to America temporarily

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Sunday vowed to "shelter" the UK's businesses from the storm unleashed in the wake of President Donald Trump's flurry of global trade tariffs, even as he reiterated plans to pursue a trade deal with the US.

Writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*, Starmer said nobody wins from a trade war and called for calm as the UK fights for the best trade deal. He reiterated 'all options remain on the table' as he indicated the possibility of state intervention.

'The economic consequences, here and across the globe, could be profound. We already have a balanced trading relationship with our US allies and work continues on a new economic prosperity deal,' writes Starmer.

'I will only strike a deal if it is right for British business and the security of working people. And I will continue to make the case for free and open trade, because turning our back on that now would be a grave mistake,' he said.

'We stand ready to use industrial policy to help shelter British business from the storm. Some people may feel uncomfortable about this; the idea the state should intervene directly to shape the market has often been derided. But we simply cannot cling on to old sentiments when the world is turning this fast,' he added.

His intervention comes following days of turmoil in the stock markets, with the UK among the nations hit with a 10 percent "baseline" import duty by Trump. Additionally, a 25 percent tariff has been imposed on UK car exports, as well as steel and aluminium products. Tata Motors-owned British carmaker Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) confirmed a pause in its American shipments.

"The USA is an important market for JLR's luxury brands. As we work to address the new trading terms with our business partners, we are taking short-term actions including a shipment pause in April," JLR said on Saturday.

One of the UK's biggest carmakers, the company exported around 38,000 cars to the US in the third quarter of 2024 as one of its major markets.

Trading across the world has been hit by Trump's tariff announcement at the White House earlier this week. He justified the move as being aimed at encouraging US consumers to buy more American goods and boost the domestic economy. But it triggered retaliatory tariffs from countries such as China and led to stocks plummeting amid fears of a global recession. *PTI*

Musk hopes for 'zero tariffs' with Europe some day

Washington: Billionaire Elon Musk told Italy League leader Matteo Salvini on Saturday that he hoped in the future the US and Europe could create 'a very close, stronger partnership' and reach a 'zero-tariff zone.' He spoke to Salvini in a video conference during the League's congress in Florence. Musk said, ideally, there will be a 'zero-tariff zone' in the future with free trade between Europe and North America.

A rescuer works through rubble of a collapsed building following the devastating earthquake in Naypidaw, Myanmar | AP

Rain complicates relief efforts in quake-hit Myanmar

YANGON

RAIN is compounding misery and presenting new hurdles for relief efforts on Sunday in Myanmar, where state media reported the death toll from a devastating earthquake has risen to nearly 3,500 people.

The 7.7-magnitude quake struck on March 28, razing buildings, cutting off power and destroying bridges and roads across the country.

Aftershocks have also continued as long as a week after the initial tremors, with a 4.7-magnitude quake striking just south of Mandalay late Friday, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Damage has been particularly severe in the city of Sagaing near the epicentre, as well as in Mandalay, Myanmar's second city with more than 1.7 million residents.

State media in the military junta-led country now say that the earthquake has caused 3,471 confirmed deaths and injured 4,671 people, while 214 remain missing.

With people either having lost their homes entirely or reluctant to spend time in cracked and unstable structures, many residents have been sleeping outside in tents.

Around 45 minutes of heavy rain and winds lashed tent cities Saturday evening in Mandalay, according to the UN Development Programme.

People and their belongings were soaked because of a shortage of tarpaulins, Tun Tun, a programme specialist at the UN agency, told AFP.

There are also fears destroyed buildings will subside and complicate body recovery efforts.

Following less intense showers Sunday morning, the temperature is due to climb to 37 degrees Celsius. "The weather is very extreme," Tun Tun told AFP, with further rain forecast.

Aid experts warn that rainy conditions and scorching heat increase the risk of disease outbreaks at outdoor camps where victims were in temporary shelter.

United Nations aid chief Tom Fletcher said that food, water, and power repairs were needed urgently, in a video filmed in Mandalay and posted to X on Sunday.

Many people in the area are still without shelter, he said, describing the scale of damage in the area as "epic". "We need to get tents and hope out to the survivors as they rebuild their shattered lives," Fletcher wrote in another post. *AFP*

Iran rejects Trump call for direct nuclear talks

TEHRAN

IRAN'S top diplomat has dismissed direct negotiations with the United States as pointless, his office said Sunday, after US President Donald Trump said he preferred face-to-face talks over its nuclear programme. Trump sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last month calling for negotiations but warning of military action if diplomacy failed. On Thursday, the US president said he favoured "direct talks", arguing they were "faster" and offered a better understanding than going through intermediaries.

But Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said direct talks made no sense with a country "that constantly threatens to resort to force in violation of the UN Charter and that expresses contradictory positions from its various officials". "We remain committed to diplomacy and are ready to try the path of indirect negotiations," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his ministry.

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE J.M.F.C. AT DEVANAHALLI

CRL.Misc. No.174/2025

Between: -Sri. Narayanappa and others ...**Petitioners**
And: -The Tahsildar, Devanahalli Taluk ...**Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

I the undersigned advocate on behalf of my clients Sri. Narayanappa S/o Late.Chikkamuniyappa, aged about 77 years, R/at:-Varadenahalli village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and others have filed the above petition for the death certificate of Late. Narayanamma W/o Late. Chikkamuniyappa who died on 16.10.1959 at Varadenahalli Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing on **12/05/2025 at 11.00 A.M.** in Crl. Mis No.174/2025.

By Order of the Court
Sd- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli

Address for Service:- Sri. P. Marappa Advocate
Office at:-No.14/4, 13th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru -560002

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/S/146/2025-26/01 Dated:04.04.2025

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** from experienced/ reputed contractors in the field.

Tender No.: RWFSTPT_CWS3400MT. **Due Date & Time :** 05.05.2025 at 14.15 Hrs. **Scope of Work :** Refer RWF Website. **Distance slab :** Above 1000Kms (with a mean distance of 2500Kms). **Quantity :** 3400MT. **Estimated Tender Value :** Rs.2,43,10,000-00 **EMD Amount :** Rs.2,71,600-00 **Contract Period :** Minimum 12 months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

IN THE COURT OF II ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU

L.A.C No. 341/2019 (CCH-17)

BETWEEN: 1. Ramaiah, S/o late Rangaiah, R/at Donenahalli Village, Chunchanakuppe Post, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-562 130. ... **CLAIMANTS**

AND: SLAO Karnataka Housing Board ... RESPONDENTS

NOTICE TO CLAIMANT NO.3,34,35 U/O 5 R 20 OF CPC

To, **3. Manjunatha .T,** #361/362,3rd Cross, Kalikanagara, Andrahalli, Main Road near Aravind School, Benglauru-91. **34. V. Srinivas,** S/o late Venkataramanappa, No.7, Kottanur Dinne, J.P.Nagar, 8th Phase, Bengaluru-560 076. **35. Padmaja .S,** W/o Rama Setty, R/at No.15, Sri Sai Krupa, 6th Main Road, Avalahalli new extension, Bengaluru-560 026

Whereas, the Respondent authority has filed this case against you and other claimants for reference under Section 77(1) of RFCTLA Act 2013 it relates to acquisition case No.KHB/LAQ/5/2010-11 and acquisition of land in Sy.No.39 (39/6) measuring 2 Acre in Donenahalli village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District vide Declaration No: RD: 204: Bhu.Swa.Be: 2012. Dated: 27.11.2012 and deposited the amount of Rs.2,16,42,792/- before this Hon'ble Court for apportionment.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the court of II Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-17) either in person or through a duly appointed counsel to pleader on your behalf on **28/04/2025** at **11:00 A.M.** failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence, placing ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this 27/02/2025

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru

SHARATH .B BELAVIGI
Advocate and Associates

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001.

O.A. No. 922/2024

BETWEEN: BANK OF BARODA, OXFORD SCHOOL BRANCH ... **APPLICANT**
AND: SRI SURESH .B ... DEFENDANT

To, **SRI SURESH .B,** S/o Balakrishna .B, Proprietor M/s. Shri Venkateswara Maruthi Enterprises, A Proprietary concern No. 322, 7th Main, 5th Cross, BSK II Stage, Kaveri Nagar, Bangalore-560070. (PAN NO BAPPB7531M) ... **DEFENDANT**

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBT RECOVERY (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO DEFENDANTS

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Rules, 1993, for recovery of the sum mentioned therein together with costs, current and future interest at the rate of 7.8% pa monthly rest, quarterly thereon and other relief/s. Therefore, you are hereby summoned to appear and file written statement before this Tribunal at **10:30 A.M** on **20/05/2025** to answer the same.

If you intend to file any document, you may file the same with a list along with written statement.

You should file your registered address and memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by pleader/ Advocate duly instructed.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before this Hon'ble Tribunal, the above case will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 21/01/2025

By order of the Tribunal, Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client Mr.B.Rajashekar S/o late V.Byrappa's grand-father Venkatappa and his children i.e.,V.Ramachandrappa, V.Venkatesh, V.Shankar, V.Gopal have partitioned the ancestral property vide registered partition deed dated 10/12/2001, bearing document No. BNG(U)-KNG/11766/2001-2002 by playing mischief. My client has challenged same before the Hon'ble City Civil Court, at Bangalore in O.S.No.4697/2012 and is pending for adjudication against parties to the said deed of partition and others for fair partition by metes and bounds. It is learnt that parties to the said Deed of Partition dated 10/12/2001, have purported to have created some third party rights and interest and are trying create and cheat the general public further by creating third party right/s and interest. It is hereby instructed to the general public that not to deal with or transact with the (schedule mentioned hereby below) the properties mentioned in the schedule to the said deed of partition dated 10/12/2001 which are ancestral properties and my client is having right, title and interest over the same, failing which, they are sole responsible for all costs and consequences either through them or through their agents, power of attorney holders, etc.,.

SCHEDULE IN THE DEED OF PARTITION

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of Survey No. 24/3 measuring 3 acres 38 guntas, situated at Hosakerehalli Village, (now 10th Main and 11th Main, Venkatappa Layout), UttarahalliHobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on- East by: survey No.23/1; West by: property of Ramaiah; North by: D'Souza property; and South by: Road and Tank bund.

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of Survey No. 23/1, measuring 1 acres 11guntas, situated at Hosakerehalli Village, (now 8th Main and 9th Main, Venkatappa Layout), UttarahalliHobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Property of Lakshmaiah; West by: survey No.24/3; North by: D'Souza property; and South by: property of Munivenkatappa.

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of Survey No. 27 measuring 7 acres and 15 guntas, situated at Hosakerehalli Village, (now 1st Main to 7th Main, Muneshwaranagara), Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on- East by: Road; West by: Rajakaluve; North by: Patel Hanumanthappa's property; and South by: Property of Gopalappa.

D.Govardhan & Associates, Advocates,
Office at No. 135, Coconut Avenue, 8 Cross Down, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003,
+91 9739090456, 7019327190,
vakilgovardhan@gmail.com

BEFORE THE HON'BLE I ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU

P & SC No. 9/2025

BETWEEN : 1. Smt. KALPANA KAVIRAJ, W/o Anil Kumar Kaviraj, Aged about 74 years, R/at #16123 Prestige Shantiniketan, ITPL Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 048. (PAN No.: ARVPK9285H)

2. Mr. KUNAL KAVIRAJ S/o Anil Kumar Kaviraj, Aged about 48 years, R/at #6187 Prestige Shantiniketan, Hoodi ITPL Road, Whitefield, Mahadevpura, Bangalore - 560 048 (PAN No.: ADYPK8514G)

3. Ms. AUSMITA KAVIRAJ D/o Anil Kumar Kaviraj, Aged about 40 years, R/at #16123 Prestige Shantiniketan, Hoodi ITPL Main Road, Opposite Whitefield Manipal Hospital, Whitefield, Bangalore - 560 048 (PAN No.:ARVPK9284G) **...PETITIONERS**

AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the Petitioners have filed the above Petition Under Section **372(1) of the Indian Succession Act, 1925** for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners and other general relief/s. The Schedule mentioned below is standing in the name of Petitioner's Husband & Father i.e., Sri. Late. Anil Kumar Kaviraj died on 17/05/2021.

THEREFORE, Interested Parties are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court, either in person or through a pleader **on 6.6.2025 at 11.00 AM** to answer the matter. If you fail to appear before the court, the matter will be heard and then proceed further by placing ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

A Public Provident Fund Account with the State Bank of India, Sakher Bazar (Kolkata), West Bengal having a Clear Balance of Rs. 42,35,488.25/- (Rupees Forty-Two Lakhs Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Eight and Twenty-Five Paisa Only).

Bank Account Details:-
Customer Name : Mr. Anil Kumar Kaviraj,
Account No. : 11280790685
CIF No. : 81041638055 **Branch Code :** 02117

Given under my hand and seal on this the 2nd day of April 2025.

By order of the Court, Chief MINISTERIAL OFFICER, Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru.

Address of the Advocate for Petitioners
HARI OM LEGAL
No. 319/3, 5th Floor, 80 Feet Road, OPP. INDOOR STADIUM, KORMANGALA 8th Block, Bengaluru - 560 095.
Ph : 8904876840 / 9611413707
E-MAIL: info@hariomlegal.in

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2693/CALL-2 **Date: 04.04.2025**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CALL-2
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPCL invites bids through GoK KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **Repair/Refurbishment of Unit-2 Kaplan Turbine Runner of 27.5MW capacity at Linganamakki Dam Power House with Replacement of one(01) number of damaged Runner Blade, including Dismantling, Erection, Testing & Commissioning - Reg.** Last Date of Submission of bid document is upto **17:00Hrs. on 19.04.2025.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Chief Engineer(Electrical Designs), KPCL, 3rd Floor, Drug Control Office Premises, No. 3, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560001.** Mobile No.: **91416 07461.** Website: **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in,** E-mail: **ceedkpcl@karnataka.gov.in / ceedkpcl@gmail.com.**

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

CUB TRUST AND EXCELLENCE SINCE 1904

PUBLICATION - DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13(2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 - Sent on **28-01-2025** by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due and the same was **returned by Mrs. Bharathamma.** Hence this.

No.1) Mr. K.C. Lakshminarayana, S/o. Late Chinnappa, No.112, Opp. Apoorva Apartment, Agraham Main Road, Kogilu Lakshmana Garden, Bangalore - 560064. No.2) Mrs. Bharathamma, W/o. K.C. Lakshminarayana, No.112, Opp. Apoorva Apartment, Agraham Main Road, Kogilu Lakshmana Garden, Bangalore - 560064.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Sub : Loan account / Overdraft with City Union Bank Limited, Bangalore Marathahalli Branch in the name of Mr. K.C. Lakshminarayana.

The Bank issued Notice under the SARFAESI Act on **28-01-2025** calling upon Nos. 1 & 2 of you jointly and severally towards the Loan Account 501812080040561 is **Rs.46,64,527/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Seven only),** as on **22-01-2025** with further interest for 501812080040561 at **13.90%** plus **2.00%** penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from **23-01-2025** till the date of repayment. **The Notice sent to you by Registered Post have been returned by No.2 and No. 1 of you received the Notice by hand delivery.**

Therefore, we hereby once again call upon Nos. 1 & 2 of you jointly and severally towards the Loan Account 501812080040561 is **Rs.46,64,527/- (Rupees Forty Six Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Seven only),** with further interest for 501812080040561 at **13.90%** plus **2.00%** penal interest p.a. (not compounded) with monthly rests from **23-01-2025** till the date of repayment within **60 days** from the date of this Notice failing which Bank will be Constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the Schedule hereunder. This Notice is published/issued without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Bank.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank

Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mr. K.C. Lakshminarayana, S/o. Late Chinnappa)

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.11, New Khatha No.839, Old Khatha No.762 converted Sy.No.99/1 vide conversion Order No.ALN (EBK) SR.40/2015-16 Dated 11-09-2015 issued by Office of the Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore situated at Channasandra Village, Bidarahalli, Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Now comes under the limits of BBMP Bangalore. Measuring : East to West 30 ft. and North to South 58.61 ft. in Total measuring 1,758.30 sq.ft .with 4 Floors Buildings consists 4 Nos.2 BHK, 10 Nos.1 BHK House, and bounded on the : East by : Site No.12, West by : Site No.10, North by : Road, South by : Sri G.B. Munivenkatappa's Property.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 07-04-2025 **Authorised Officer**

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Friday 18-04-2025 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 8884114481 **FEDGL0088**0006125, 0006156, 0006163, 0006178 **Arakalgud** 9964260350 **FEDGL0036**0013802, 0013806, 0013823 **Arasikere** 9620276545 **FEDGL0414**0005009, 0005014 **B H Road** 8904344610 **FEDGL0103**0016764, 0016785, 0016894, 0016903, 0016921, **FEDBD0103**0000044, 0000060 **Basaveshwara Nagar** 9036935453 **FEDGL0011**0012600, **Belgaum** 9538166084 **FEDGL0136**0007340, 0007351, 0007352, 0007381 **Belur** 9483265538 **FEDGL0159**0011941, 0011966, 0011982 **Bommanahalli** 8555046900 **FEDGL0014**0008231, 0008262, 0008276, 0008279 **Btm Layout** 9980764782 **FEDGL0003**0007180 **Byadgi** 8970590276 **FEDGL0051**0012877, 0012891, 0012896, 0012925, 0012933, 0012994 **Caltex Circle** 9900291944 **FEDGL0102**0014851, 0014873, 0014931 **Car Street Bellary** 9535205038 **FEDGL0092**0005073 **Channapatna** 9743172738 **FEDGL0176**0020783, 0021094 **Chenrayapatna** 9739489738 **FEDGL0158**0023878, 0023921, 0023926, 0023933, 0023940, 0023948 **Chikkamagalur** 9164264697 **FEDGL0021**0008688 **Davangere** 8792107472 **FEDGL0229**0010249, 0010259, 0010295, 0010323, 0010550 **Dharwad** 8152913405 **FEDGL0233**0006780, 0006804, 0006809 **Gadag** 9902373905 **FEDGL0420**0005609, 0005616, 0005638 **Gubbi** 7760812077 **FEDGL0046**0016764, 0016810, 0016924, 0016936, 0016940, 0016965 **Gundalpete** 9916977750 **FEDGL0383**0004964, 0005015 **H D Kote** 8147199881 **FEDGL0058**0010896, 0010905, 0011320 **Hagaribommanhalli** 9481555371 **FEDGL0100**0011838, 0011885, 0011891, 0011921, 0011967, **FEDBD0100**0000138, **Hansur** 7760995688 **FEDGL0162**0018032, 0018122 **Harappanahalli** 9945998329 **FEDGL0104**0011092, 0011110, 0011115, 0011127, 0011147, 0011162 **Harihar** 8147533256 **FEDGL0022**0015385, 0015418, 0015754 **Hassan Market** 8970429398 **FEDGL0157**0015516, 0015552 **Haveri** 8880914476 **FEDGL0181**0012055, 0012070, 0012082 **Holenarsipura** 9591033235 **FEDGL0059**0024025, 0024034 **FEDDS0059**0000167 **Hosa Road** 8050825082 **FEDGL0002**0015044 **Hosadurga** 8105000953 **FEDGL0412**0006231, 0006270, 0006293, 0006309 **Hospet** 9743956995 **FEDGL0099**0009315, 0009321, 0009345, 0009351, 0009356, 0009357, 0009362, 0009390, 0009402, 0009410, 0009419, 0009428, 0009734 **K R Nagar** 9901175713 **FEDGL0161**0013412, 0013413, 0013672, 0013705, 0013717 **K R Pete** 9880106025 **FEDGL0063**0009208, 0009265 **K R Puram** 8553393114 **FEDGL0012**0014243, 0014262 **K R Road** 7829541516 **FEDGL0037**0006738, 0006740, 0006747, 0006749, 0006775, 0006911 **Kadur** 9844224685 **FEDGL0487**0004293, 0004306, 0004315, 0004330, 0004358, 0004682 **Kampli** 6361077968 **FEDGL0095**0009351, 0009356, 0009357, 0009360, 0009382, 0009388, 0009396, 0009402, 0009405, 0009413, 0009426, 0009427, 0009455 **Kopikar Road** 8792207075 **FEDGL0155**0008841 **Koppal** 9980073958 **FEDGL0403**0003442, 0003466, 0003482 **Kudligi** 7760491423 **FEDGL0404**0006637, 0006675, 0006681, 0006687, 0006701, 0006704, 0006714, 0006737, 0006748, 0006769, 0006772 **FEDBD0404**0000271 **Kunigal** 9738833176 **FEDGL0121**0011297, 0011316, 0011388 **Madhugiri** 9972981737 **FEDGL0393**0008786, 0008790, 0008837, 0008848, 0008854 **Malavalli** 9742509190 **FEDGL0365**0006473, 0006510, 0006520 **FEDBD0365**0000050, **Malebennur** 8884276416 **FEDGL0062**0012697, 0012737, 0012741, 0012745, 0012756, 0012759, 0012766, 0012777, 0012783, 0012792 **Mandimohalla** 9945657838 **FEDGL0174**0010992, 0010998, 0011010 **Mandya** 8453194687 **FEDGL0163**0009113, 0009118, 0009146, 0009147, 0009167 **Mundargi** 9886453768 **FEDGL0064**0010226, 0010240, 0010241, 0010262, 0010302, 0010303, 0010321, 0010326, 0010338, 0010345, 0010386 **Nagarbhavi** 9845543854 **FEDGL0031**0006833, 0007122, 0007150, 0007178 **Nelamangala** 9108850892 **FEDGL0392**0003676, 0003677 **Pavagada** 9448386998 **FEDGL0377**0010447, 0010467, 0010489, 0010498, 0010500, 0010546, 0010553, 0010554, 0010576, 0010581, 0010593, 0010601, 0010605, 0010614, 0010618, 0010621 **Periapatna** 9449955714 **FEDGL0044**0010432, 0010435, 0010497, 0010510, 0010908, 0010913 **Rajaji Nagar** 7892077716 **FEDDS0004**0000341, **Ramanagara** 8197884697 **FEDGL0180**0025458, 0025529, 0025560, 0025610, 0025614 **FEDDS0180**0000495, **Ranebennur** 9535884578 **FEDGL0232**0012115, 0012171, 0012207 **Shimoga** 9513242321 **FEDGL0183**0012071, 0012075, 0012176 **Sindhanur** 8880890891 **FEDGL0461**0003894, 0003896 **Sira** 9686864110 **FEDGL0376**0010943, 0010977, 0010989, 0011010, 0011020, 0011034, 0011038, 0011046, 0011049, 0011081, 0011097, 0011115, 0011135 **Sirsi** 9945929333 **FEDGL0193**0008191, 0008200, 0008201, 0008211, 0008212, 0008221, 0008234 **Tarikere** 9945524645 **FEDGL0415**0004186, **Tiptur** 9739894909 **FEDGL0047**0010684, 0010725 **Yeshwantpur** 9844851400 **FEDGL0034**0006543,

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 17-04-2025 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 07-04-2025 **For, sd/- Authorised Signatory**
Place : Karnataka **Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,**

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IN THE COURT OF THE XV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-03)

P & SC No. 126 of 2025

Between: **1. RANMAL TULSIRAM,** Son of late Tulsiram Ji., Aged about 83 years. **2. GANPAT LAL,** Son of Ranmal Tulsiram, Aged about 59 years. **3. VIJAYKUMAR R,** Son of Ranmal Tulsiram, Aged about 56 years. **4. R LALITH KUMAR,** Son of Ranmal Tulsiram, Aged about 52 years. **5. SUMITHRA DEVI,** Wife of Late Raj Kumar, Care of Ranmal Tulsiram, Aged about 51 years. Sl Nos. 1-5 residing at No. 45, Asha Kunj, Ground Floor, Rangarao Road, Shankarapuram, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560 004. Petitioner Nos. 1-3 & 5 represented by their GPA Holder, R Lalith Kumar (Petitioner No.4) **...Petitioners**

And: **NIL ...Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Petitioners above named have filed an application under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in their favour, in respect of Schedule properties mentioned herein below. The schedule properties were held by Late Asha Devi, wife of Ranmal Tulsiram, who expired on 16.09.2024. Interested parties are hereby summoned to appear to this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed, **on 24.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.,** to show cause against the Petitioners, failing which the appearance will be heard and declared as ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	ISIN Code	Scrip Name	Balance	Value
1	INE079A01024	AMBUJA CEMENT LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	65.000	32,184.75
2	INE263A01024	BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED - EQ NEW FV Re 1/-	600.000	1,64,490.00
3	INE666D01022	BOROSIL RENEWABLES LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE. 1/-	400.00	1,97,600.00
4	INE500A01029	DCW LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	1500.000	1,20,000.00
5	INE501A01019	DEEPAK FERTILISERS AND PETROCHEMICALS CORPORATION LTD-EQ	400.000	4,54,180.00
6	INE302A01020	EXIDE INDUSTRIES LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE. 1/-	625.000	2,33,531.25
7	INE183A01024	FINOLEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	1000.000	2,01,650.00
8	INE0AJG01018	HIMISPHERE PROPERTIES INDIA LIMITED - EQ	1250.000	1,78,000.00
9	INE019C01026	HIMADRI SPECIALITY CHEMICAL LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE. 1/-	250.000	1,20,575.00
10	INE102A01024	HLV LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	5000.000	78,950.00
11	INE022Q01020	INDIAN ENERGY EXCHANGE LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS 1	200.000	33,936.00
12	INE053F01010	INDIAN RAILWAY FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED - EQ	500.000	68,420.00
13	INE379A01028	ITC HOTELS LIMITED - EQ	100.000	17,140.00
14	INE154A01025	ITC LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE. 1/-	1000.000	4,54,350.00
15	INE758E01017	JIO FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED - EQ	1200.000	2,80,764.00
16	INE880J01026	JSW INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS 2/-	467.000	1,20,089.05
17	INE774D01024	MAHINDRA AND MAHINDRA FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	500.000	1,45,925.00
18	INE103A01014	MANGALORE REFINERY FINANCIAL SERVECE LIMITED - EQ	850.000	1,03,589.50
19	INE249Z01020	MAZAGON DOCK SHIPBUILDERS LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 5/-	60.000	1,34,058.00
20	INE0FS801015	MOTHERSON SUMI WIRING INDIA LIMITED - EQ	1000.000	56,530.00
21	INE247F01018	ORIENT BEVERAGE LIMITED - EQ	50.000	15,115.00
22	INE484I01029	PRECISION CAMSHAFTS LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 10/-	500.000	1,48,525.00
23	INE002A01018	RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED - EQ	140.000	1,74,426.00
24	INE775A01035	SAMVARDHANA MOTHERSON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED - EQ FV RS.1/-	424.000	55,378.64
25	INE327G01032	SAYAJI INDUSTRIES LIMITED - NEW FV RS. 5/-	300.000	1,00,200.00
26	INE062A01020	STATE BANK OF INDIA - EQ NEW RE. 1/-	1000.000	7,60,950.00
27	INE148A01019	TAMILNADU PETROPRODUCTS LIMITED - EQ	630.000	48,371.40
28	INE639B01015	TANFAC INDUSTRIES LIMITED - EQ	225.000	8,67,825.00
29	INE092A01019	TATA CHEMICALS LIMITED - EQ	355.000	3,36,025.25
30	INE192A01025	TATA CONSUMER PRODUCTS LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE.1/-	315.000	3,26,434.50
31	INE155A01022	TATA MOTORS LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 2/-	1000.000	6,87,450.00
32	INE245A01021	THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RE. 1/-	3000.000	10,64,700.00
33	INE440L01017	TIJARIA POLYPIPES LIMITED - EQ	7200.000	66,672.00
34	INE494B01023	TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED - EQ FV RE. 1/-	205.000	5,44,018.75
35	INE113E01015	UNIVERSAL STARCH CHEM ALLIED LIMITED - EQ	276.000	41,634.60
36	INE945P01024	WARDWIZARD INNOVATION & MOBILITY LIMITED - EQ NEW FV RS. 1/-	600.000	18,954.00
			Total	84,52,642.69/-

Given under my hand and seal of the Court, this 20th day of of March, 2025

Address for service: **Sanjay H. Sethiya,** Advocate
Law Square, Advocates & Solicitors,
Level Two, No.2/1, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/MWD/KGD/AEE/AE-2/2024-25/8900 Date:28.03.2025

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited had formulated a scheme under section 164 of Indian Electricity Act 2003 read with para (iii) of the Indian Telegraph act 1885 (10 to 19 & 19A of 1885) for implementation of the below said scheme.This notification is issued for information of the General public. Particulars of scheme are as here under.

1. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO Line on 110kV DC towers from Existing 66kV Santhesaraguru-B.Matakere SC Line to the Proposed **66/11kV Basapura (Sagare)** Sub-Station for a distance of 3.025Kms in Saraguru Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** Reliability in power supply and to meet future load growth in and around Basapura, Sagare & adjacent villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Katavalu and Sagare limits. **Approximate Length Line:** 3.025 kms. **Approximate Cost:** 2262.35Lakhs.

2. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO Line on 110kV DC towers from Existing 66kV Kadakola-Saraguru-HD Kote SC Line to the Proposed **66/11kV K.Belthur** Sub-Station for a distance of 0.322Kms in Saraguru Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** Reliability in power supply and to meet future load growth in and around K.Belthur & adjacent villages. **Areas Passing Through:** K.Belthur limits. **Approximate Length Line:** 0.322Kms. **Approximate Cost:** 1842.90 Lakhs.

3. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO Line on 110kV DC towers from Existing 66kV Periyapatna-Hanagodu SC Line to the Proposed **66/11kV Panchavalli (Chowkuru)** Sub-Station for a distance of 2.01Kms in Periyapatna Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** Reliability in power supply and to meet future load growth in and around Panchavalli (Chowkuru) & adjacent villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Halasuru and Chowkuru limits. **Approximate Length Line:** 2.01Kms. **Approximate Cost:** 2168.92 Lakhs.

4. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO Line on 110kV DC towers from Existing 66kV Kushalanagara-Periyapatna DC Line to the Proposed **66/11kV Belthuru (Hunasawadi)** Sub-Station for a distance of 3.986Kms in Periyapatna Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** Reliability in power supply and to meet future load growth in and around Belthuru (Hunasawadi) & adjacent villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Senabinakuppe, Kandegala, Mallinathapura and Hunasawadi limits. **Approximate Length Line:** 3.986Kms. **Approximate Cost:** 2320.32 Lakhs.

5. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 66kV LILO Line on 110kV DC towers from Existing 66kV Kushalanagara-Chunchanakatte-KR Nagara DC Line to the Proposed **66/11kV Chikkanerale (Doddanerale)** Sub-Station for a distance of 0.335Kms in Periyapatna Taluk, Mysuru District. **Salient Feature:** Reliability in power supply and to meet future load growth in and around Chikkanerale (Doddanerale) & adjacent villages. **Areas Passing Through:** Doddanerale limits. **Approximate Length Line:** 0.335Kms. **Approximate Cost :**2123.07 Lakhs.

KPTCL shall have and exercise all powers under the section 164 of Indian Electricity Act 2003 read with para (iii) of the Indian Telegraph act 1885 (10 to 19 & 19A of 1885) for implementation of the above said scheme. Any objection regarding the above scheme shall be sent to the undersigned office **within one month from the date of Publication** of this notification for consideration by Corporation.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), Projects, Kodagu Division KPTCL, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru – 570 007

₹10,355 CR have been withdrawn by foreign investors from equity mkts so far in April.

Economists expect 25 bps repo cut this week

The RBI is likely to cut key interest rates again in April monetary policy as inflation intensity continues to moderate

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

WITH the tariff war posing new challenge to growth and not to inflation, the Reserve Bank-led monetary policy panel that begins the three-day meet here on Monday is likely to take more growth-inducing measures and not just deliver another 25 bps reduction in the repo rate, say Mint Road observers.

If it cuts the repo rate again on Wednesday this will be the second consecutive rate cut and will take the key policy rate to 6 %. The first repo cut was delivered in the February meeting and came in after a gap of almost five years. And since then, the inflation print has been comforting and recorded a seven-month low of 3.6% in February and the same is projected to print in under 4 % in March.

"We expect the MPC to reduce the repo rate by 25 bps this week, as inflation continues to moderate. We see CPI inflation averaging at 4.2% in FY26," Aditi Nayar, the chief economist at Icra Ratings told TNIE.

She also expects another 25 bps reduction in the policy rate in the June or August policy review, based on the evolving growth inflation dynamics.

Tanvee Gupta Jain, the chief economist at UBS Securities India also thinks the RBI is unlikely to be holding the rates saying, "we maintain our view that there is scope for a further 50 bps cut in the repo rate in this cycle. Besides ensuring currency flexibility, we expect continued monetary policy support in terms of rate cuts (scope of more policy easing than our base case), liquidity support and regulatory easing." Similarly, DK Pant, the

chief economist at India Ratings, too, expects another rate cut 25 bps on Wednesday.

"With the inflation intensity declining and expectation of inflation trending towards 4%, we expect a 25 bps rate cut in April monetary policy," Pant told TNIE.

According to Radhika Rao, the executive director & a senior economist at DBS Bank, the RBI will shift its focus from inflation fighting to supporting growth from now on, as the punitive tariffs will slow global growth for one and the lingering geopolitical tension will continue to pose challenges to domestic growth momentum. Moreover, inflation is unlikely to overshoot the target this fiscal.

"Given these, we expect the MPC is likely to continue with the rate-cutting cycle that began in February, and will deliver another 25-bps reduction in the repo rate this week, while maintaining the neutral stance amidst global headwinds," Rao said. Echoing similar views, Rajni Sinha of Care Rating also said lower inflation has paved the way for another 25 bps rate cut this week.

Rahul Bajoria, head of economic research at BofA Global Research, said, "With sub-4% CPI inflation and sub-7% GDP growth, the hurdle for MPC to cut rates again this week is very low. So, we expect another 25 bps cut in the repo rate to 6%, and continue to expect 5.50% as terminal rate by October."

He said the path for further policy easing appears quite clear and straightforward, with growth likely to be seen in a range that' is deemed non-inflationary, headline inflation likely to be sub 4% for next few months, and the pressure on exchange rate coming down substantially. This ongoing cohesion in economic data should help the Reserve Bank and its monetary policy committee to reduce policy rates again this week, taking the repo rate to 6%, by cutting it by 25 bps, he added.

IN CONVERSATION

AASHISH P SOMAIYAA
Chief Executive Officer, WhiteOak Mutual Fund

US exceptionalism is starting to show signs of fatigue: WhiteOak CEO

AMID changing economic and geopolitical dynamics, fund management has become a challenging job as equity as an asset is under severe pressure. **Dipak Mondal** caught up with **Aashish P Somaiyaa,** CEO, WhiteOak Mutual Fund to discuss impending US economic slowdown, its India effects and more. Edited **excerpts**:

What's the current outlook for the US and emerging markets?
US exceptionalism is starting to show signs of fatigue. While the Magnificent Seven stocks are holding the market up, broader data suggests a slowdown. US GDP growth forecasts are being marked down. Looking ahead—into late 2025 or early 2026—I believe the trend will start favouring emerging markets again. Over the past five years, the US delivered 15–16% CAGR in dollar terms, India about 13–14%, but other EMs didn't fare as well. That's changing now. Historically, we've seen cycles. From 2000–2010, emerging markets outperformed while the US lagged due to events like the tech bubble, 9/11, Gulf War, and Lehman crisis. From 2010–2020, it reversed—US dominated, EMs underperformed. It's likely we're entering a reversal again where US performance normalises, and EMs gain favour.

Will India benefit if the US slows down?
Yes, in the long run. It's not about a US collapse but rather a normalisation. US markets have grown so rapidly, especially tech-heavy sectors, that a correction is natural. India stands to gain in the rebalancing phase.

Your portfolio seems bullish on the consumption theme. Why is that, given it has underperformed in recent years?
True, but we're focused more on discretionary consumption rather than FMCG. That includes sectors like white goods, fashion, eating out, tourism, and travel. It's linked to rising per capita income. Even if only the top 10% benefit from rising income, that's still a huge number of people in India. It's all tied to affordability and formalisation. We've seen strong returns from hospitals and diagnostics—not directly consumption, but driven by rising affordability and formal employment. Whether it's health insurance, organised retail, or people being more selective about brands—it's all linked to the same shift: unorganised to organised, unbranded to branded.

While the Magnificent Seven stocks are holding the market up, broader data suggests a slowdown. US GDP growth forecasts are being marked down.

So, you're not very bullish on FMCG?
FMCG has its challenges—penetration levels are already high, and they're facing heat from DTC (Direct to Consumer) and natural brands. Distribution is also evolving. That's why we lean toward discretionary consumption, which aligns more with India's income story and changing lifestyle trends. While sub-sector weights might shift, the overarching theme of discretionary consumption will likely remain significant in our portfolio for the foreseeable future.

Financials is a major sector for most MFs and PMS. Do you see any issues in the financial sector in 2025?
If you look at our portfolios, you will see either big banks, some NBFCs, or segments like insurance, asset management, or wealth management. So, while our exposure to financial services is high, it's led predominantly by big private banks or even something like State Bank. We've consciously avoided second-tier or mid-cap banks. Right now, RBI's stance on liquidity management and interest rate direction is turning more dovish. This benefits NBFCs. Think back to 2014-16 — that was a high-liquidity, low-rate environment where NBFCs thrived, especially since many banks weren't lending due to being under prompt corrective action. Also, RBI has relaxed norms for banks to lend to NBFCs, further supporting this environment. So, it's an environment where NBFCs may do well.

MONEY-WISE

PORTFOLIO & TRUMP'S TARIFF TANTRUMS!

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

DID anyone tell you 'This time it is different' and this panic caused by Trump is the worst thing since The Plague hit us about a Century ago?

Or did they say 'This time it is NOT different'

Both mean the same thing for the common investor. What should you do as an investor?

- Remember that there is no Magic to make the pain disappear! When the equity markets go down, there will be some pain! You will have to endure it yourself, so learn to suffer the pain.
- Equity markets will ALWAYS be volatile – and hence the rewards are high too! A straightforward 7% p.a return is what you will get in PPF and investments like PPF.

Equity will give you good returns -but that calls for sitting tight during tough times like this.

- Trying to predict what will happen in the market is impossible. You are trying to predict what will happen in the market (maybe easier?) and also predict what Donald Trump will do tomorrow. Both are tough indeed!
- Check your asset allocation – and make sure you have enough cash for at least 18-24 months in the bank. As long as you keep getting your salary, this is still just a standby! Remember these changes could even hit your job -be prepared for that too.
- Just like the Covid attack on your health, this attack is on your wealth. Keep increasing your stamina (increase bank balance), do your exercises (monitor asset allocation) and be ready for a long grind.
- This game by Trump is unprecedented – most investors, their CIOs, and the investment banks themselves are an emotional mess. Will they be able to think clearly is not sure.
- In your investing life, be ready for such falls, learn to brace yourself and get hurt less. As long as you don't need the money in the next five years, you don't have to do anything.
- If you are scared, stop the SIP that is happening. This might lead to regret – if the market goes up like it did in July/August of 2020.

In March we thought the world was coming to an end, but in September the market hit an all-time high!

- In case you are very scared you can make huge, big changes in your portfolio – like selling Indian Tech companies and buying American stocks. Do remember that US Stocks have tanked over the past few days and you may have to wait a bit.
- Some of these actions – like doing nothing - are likely to have minimum regret later on. However, if you make wholesale changes the regret could be huge. Decide on what to do.
- Ask your investment and tax advisor about Loss Harvesting and such techniques. Finding an advisor who can talk about all this is not easy, but it is surely worth the effort – of finding him/her!
- Be calm and composed – taking an emotional decision when the markets are already down will not help. You might do something which will be harmful.

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT TO MAKE OF THE GLOBAL TRADE WAR

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

IF anxiety about the future of the world economy is trumping (literally!) other thoughts, you are probably not alone. In a world economy worth $123 trillion, global trade accounts for nearly a third of the value. Those $35 plus trillion dollars are at risk. The prime minister of Singapore, Lawrence Wong, warned that global trade wars lead to global conflicts. His fears probably should be those of everyone who is not imposing that trade war.

The big picture

The United States, China and Germany largely dominate the $35 trillion worth of global trade at risk. China is the biggest exporter of manufacturing goods and one of the biggest importers of services.

However, it has the highest trade surplus in the world (higher overall exports over imports). On the other hand, America has the highest trade deficit in the world (higher imports over exports). That means, over the past few years, Americans have been the world's biggest consumers, and the Chinese have been the world's most prominent manufacturers and exporters. President Trump's new tariff regime will disrupt the existing global trade system. The new system seeks to cut down on US imports and suddenly expand the scope of US exports of goods and services. For that to happen, global companies must set up factories and offices in the US.

However, under free trade practices, goods and services are manufactured in places where they can be produced at the cheapest. That reduces the cost for consumers. Since the Second World War, American consumers have benefited immensely as goods and services moved freely. The size of the US economy has only grown more significant than ever. The US dollar is the world's reserve currency, and American government-issued treasury bonds are the safest assets in the world. The readjustment in global trade will likely shake the existing trade and finance structure.

India will be affected

While India accounts for barely 4% of the global trade, the intensity of India's engagement with the world is more significant than in previous decades. India will not remain insulated from a broken global trade system. A slow growth in America will further trigger a slowdown in countries that depended heavily on US exports.

While India is a middle-income country, it has problems like a rich country. It has a trade deficit due to imports of commodities like oil and gold for domestic consumption. India needs exports to grow, maintain economic growth momentum, and balance trade. However, if global demand slows and exports slump, India's economy will slow down. Share prices of export-oriented companies like software services, leather, footwear, jewellery, diamonds, and many other sectors plummeted over the past four weeks in anticipation of the new US tariff regime. India's relative advantage is primarily due to a large domestic market. Financial services, consumer goods and technology continue to drive consumption-led growth. There is a chance that other countries with excess capacity may start to flood Indian markets with cheaper goods. It is a risk that the Indian government will have to monitor closely. Keep an eye on the bilateral trade deals India negotiates with countries like the US, UK, Europe and others.

Your money

The next few months would be about adopting a risk-averse investment strategy. You should focus more on conserving your hard-earned money. If you are confident about your future income, you can buy shares in fundamentally strong companies as they fall. If you are new to investing, you must diversify your savings into multiple asset classes like equity, gold and bonds. Getting professional help to make an appropriate asset allocation may be a good idea. Investing is fraught with risk and uncertainty. This time, it is on an unprecedented scale.

Mkt may remain volatile amid US tariffs & RBI rate decision

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Indian equity market is likely to experience heightened volatility in the coming week as investors assess the impact of recent US trade tariffs. Concerns over a potential full-blown trade war and a slowdown in the global economy—both triggered by the US measures—are expected to keep market participants cautious.

Additionally, investor focus will shift to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upcoming monetary policy decision, where a 25 basis points (bps) rate cut is widely anticipated. A reduction in key lending rates could provide some relief to markets, but lingering global trade tensions may continue to weigh on sentiment. Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments said that investors are expected to closely monitor any countermeasures implemented by global trade partners, which could further exacerbate geopolitical and economic uncertainty. This cautious sentiment is reflected in the sustained rally in gold and bond prices, underscoring a pronounced shift toward safe-haven assets. Nair added that investors' attention is also firmly fixed on the upcoming MPC meeting. A favourable outcome could benefit rate-sensitive sectors. In addition, key macroeconomic indicators—namely India's inflation figures and US jobless claims—will be closely watched, as they are likely to offer critical insights into the underlying economic conditions in both regions.

Meanwhile, market focus is gradually shifting toward the upcoming corporate earnings season. "The initial outlook remains subdued, with the risk of further downward revisions to earnings growth, largely due to tepid demand and continued margin pressures," added Nair.

Swiggy receives ₹7.59 crore tax demand order

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

FOOD delivery platform Swiggy has received an assessment order for the April 2021 to March 2022 period, amounting to Rs 7.59 crore from the Office of the Profession Tax Officer, Pune.

In a regulatory filing, the company said, "Violation of provisions pertaining to deduction of Profession Tax from the employees' salary under the Maharashtra State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings & Employments Act, 1975, has been alleged against the company."

"The Company believes that it has strong arguments against the Order and is taking necessary steps to protect its interest through review/appeal,"it added.

Crude oil prices drop $10 per barrel after Trump's tariff announcement

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

CRUDE oil prices have witnessed a sharp decline, dropping nearly $10 per barrel in just one week, following the Trump administration's announcement of tariffs on certain countries.

Although the oil and gas sector is exempt from these tariffs, concerns over inflation, slowed economic growth, and intensified trade disputes have contributed to the price drop. Brent Crude Oil, which was trading at $72.94 per barrel, has witnessed a 7% drop to $65.58 per barrel on Sunday. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) Crude Oil was $61.99 per barrel, dropping almost 7.41%. On Friday, crude oil prices crashed 7% to reach their lowest point in over three years. This decline is attributed

to China's decision to impose tariffs on US goods, escalating the trade war and increasing the likelihood of a recession. For the week, Brent crude oil prices fell 10.9%, marking their largest weekly loss in a year and a half, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) prices dropped 10.6%, their biggest decline in two years.The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) has announced plans to increase output, aiming to return 411,000 barrels per day (bpd) to the market in May, up from the previously planned 135,000 bpd. This decision has further pressured oil prices.Additionally, a Russian court's ruling that the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's (CPC) Black Sea export terminal facilities should not be suspended has also contributed to the price drop, as it may prevent a decline in Kazakhstan's oil production and supplies. Goldman Sachs has lowered its forecast for Brent crude oil's average price this year by 5.5% to $69 per barrel and for US WTI prices by 4.3% to $66 per barrel. Meanwhile, it won't have any impact on the domestic market as the price of petrol and diesel have not changed.

Shooter Rudrankksh sizzles to clinch WC gold

Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil put up a near-flawless show to bag the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle event of the ongoing ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires in Argentina on Sunday. Patil, who had a tally of 252.9, led from start to finish in the eight-man final that also featured Arjun Babuta. Babuta finished seventh. India have four medals (2 gold, 1 silver & 1 bronze) so far in the meet.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT PUNJAB KINGS

From musculoskeletal screening before the start of the IPL season to ensuring players gain back the lost fluids during games, here's an in-depth look at the kind of things the franchise does to keep the players game ready during the two-months they are with the team

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

AFTER a hectic last three weeks or so, Andrew Leipus and Adrian le Roux are finally able to breathe. As is the norm just before the start of another Indian Premier League (IPL) season, the pair, head sports physiotherapist and the strength and conditioning coach at Punjab Kings, have had to run a battery of tests on the franchise's players.

"The first two weeks are hectic," Leipus says over a Zoom call. "You have got 25 guys who are coming in from various parts of the world with various levels of cricket under their belt. You have to get to know these guys, there is the screening process... it's quite intensive. We have come out of it pretty well."

The screening process Leipus, a support staff of the men's national team over two decades ago, conducts is important for various reasons. "We do a musculoskeletal screening in order to determine if these guys are fit on arrival, if they are fit for selection on arrival. There's a number of physiotherapy based tests including strength, function and control. We firstly assess if they are coming with any injuries and are fit for selection (upon arrival). If they are not fit for selection, they don't get paid basically. From a physio perspective, there are a number of things one can do — concussion testing, cardiac testing, you don't know where to stop. We cover the basics that we feel are important." Le Roux does his own body composition testing. He also does a strength screening to look at movement. That, though, is during the initial weeks. Once games begin, their area of expertise changes to hydration, player education apropos urine, getting eight hours of sleep and so on.

1-3 kgs

Players tend to lose anywhere between one and three kilos during a night match

Wellness tech

Players use a wide variety of machines to help them recover faster. One of the most well known devices at their disposal is normatec, it's USP is compression therapy. It helps in increasing circulation and reducing inflammation. Elite athletes swear by this tech and is frequently used by footballers after matches

Urine testing

Punjab used to do this to look at the specific urine gravity but don't do this anymore. A lot of sports teams do analyse urine samples

Physio Andrew Leipus with pacer Arshdeep Singh during a training session; (above) Adrian Le Roux during training | PUNJAB KINGS/ISHAN MAHAL

Punjab Kings 'did dabble' in studying the urine deposits of the players but they don't do that anymore. "What we are testing for is not going to make a difference in the time frame of that match," Leipus says. "During Test cricket, perhaps (it's important to look at the specific gravity of the urine). In T20, the game's over in three and a half hours. It's about making sure your urine is clear before the match starts." Le Roux, whose time with the Indian team overlapped with that of Leipus, chips in during the same Zoom call. "It's all about player education," the South African says. "We spend a lot of time with the players to talk about hydration and sleep. It doesn't really matter what time the players go to sleep but the aim is for eight hours of sleep."

Punjab do not have set hydration protocols in place but "we encourage all players to go to bed fully hydrated, even if it means having to get up to pass urine in the night," Leipus says. It's kind of important because players tend to lose anywhere between one and three kilos over the four over period during an IPL game. "It depends on an individual," Le Roux, who has worked in the IPL in some capacity during all seasons, says.

Using technology which has Haaland as an investor

Hydration, though, is just one aspect of their roles after matches. "We can't force players to do anything that they don't feel is relevant to them," Leipus says. "A lot of them do ice-baths in the dressing room post matches. When they come back to the hotel, if they have got any niggles, we do something called an icing-compression treatment. We had a couple of players on the normatec (a compression device footballer Erling Haaland swears by so much he decided to become an investor in its parent company)," Leipus says.

Even if some of the younger Punjab players are gently coaxed to avail tech like this, one player who takes care of his body is Shreyas Iyer. "Shreyas was out there for 20 overs (during his innings of 97 against Gujarat) before he fielded," the Australian says. "It's a reflection of how he looks after himself, he hydrated, he does normatec, his physical prep is really good and is committed to nutrition... you don't have to push him."

On Tuesday, both Le Roux and Leipus, who have worked in pairs (before Punjab, they were together at Kolkata), will get to work again. First, it's to ensure players are hydrated and fit to perform ahead of their match against Chennai at Mullanpur. Minutes after the match, the ice-baths, the customised drinks and other devices are put into place.

Sai of things to come for Kishore & Gujarat Titans

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

GT's R Sai Kishore (c) celebrates a wicket with his teammamtes | VINAY MADAPU

GUJARAT Titans have the best spinner in this year's edition of the Indian Premier League. That is not a surprising sentence but it's actually R Sai Kishore who has, slowly but surely, stepped out of multiple shadows to carve out a place for himself.

On Sunday night, no doubt aided by a slow, sluggish black soil deck in Hyderabad, he once again showcased his wares to pick up two more wickets for Gujarat Titans. In 10 previous matches before this season, he had picked up only 13 wickets in 10 matches. 2025? He's already on eight, the best slow bowler after Noor Ahmad in terms of wickets. In terms of dot balls, he's already bowled 36, only behind Varun Chakravarthy in terms of spinners in this particular metric.

If economy is your thing, he's the third best spinner behind Chakravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav (minimum 10 overs). It shows several things. One, he's outbowling his more illustrious teammate Khan, not an easy thing to do. But he's also emerged as a solid wicket-taking option for Titans across the middle-overs. In the process, he's making up for lost time.

After spending a few years at Chennai Super Kings where his role was off the field (he didn't play a single game as he was below Ravindra Jadeja), the Titans picked him up. They gave him a few matches in their debut season in 2022 but he once again was forced to watch on from the sidelines in 2023 as they preferred the sexier wrist-spin option of Noor Ahmad.

Kishore knew he had to stand out from the crowd. He's now armed with a carrom ball, a weapon not usually found in an arsenal of an SLA. 'To be relevant in T20 cricket, you have to keep evolving," he told the host broadcaster after employing the carrom ball to remove Krunal Pandya against Royal Challengers Bengaluru. "I have been practicing it for the last 3-4 years but have not bowled it anywhere. It is like a carrom ball so I get more dip on it." The other Sai, Sudharsan, was all praise for his statemate when he had come for the post-match press conference. "He understands the game, understands the situation and uses his speeds, angles. I think that is why he's bowling the way he is."

The point about speeds and angles — think spin as the world of art colliding with the world of physics — is something a lot of spinners work with. Kishore showed why he has become a master at it. Against Heinrich Klaasen, he got one to come in from a back of a length before taking the leg stump. It was the change of pace as the previous few deliveries were in the 83 kph mark. The wicket-taking delivery was 11 clicks quicker and the South African keeper was done for pace. In an unbroken four over spell, he also accounted for Nitish Reddy to help restrict the hosts to 152/8. **Brief scores:** SRH 152/8 in 20 ovs (Nitish 31, Klaasen 27; Siraj 4/17 Kishore 2/24, Krishna 2/25) **lost to** GT 153/3 in 16.4 ovs (Gill 61 n.o, Washington 49).

MI & RCB lock horns

Mumbai Indians seek a morale-boosting win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru, whose own ambitions hit a speed bump. A look at Monday's IPL fixture...

Rohit question

Mumbai Indians have something resembling a big problem on their hands in the shape of Rohit Sharma. He maybe one of the most successful white-ball captains in the history of the game but he's now playing purely as a batter. He hasn't fired for Mumbai in a long time.

21

Rohit Sharma has made 21 runs across three games for his franchise this season

Salt vs Mumbai's new-ball bowlers

Even if Jasprit Bumrah doesn't make a comeback, this contest could decide the identity of the game. On the pacier Mumbai strip, Salt could like it so the onus is on the likes of Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar to stop him from getting a move on.

Eyes on Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah was last seen in competitive action over four months ago. Since suffering a back injury during the Australia series, the pacer has had to go through another cycle of rest and rehab. If he does play on Monday, what shape will he be in? Also, there will be a fear that the franchise could possibly be rushing him in.

Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Mumbai — Live on Star Sports & JioHotstar, 7.30 PM

EXPRESS READ

Djokovic plays down Monte Carlo hopes

MONTE CARLO: World No 5 Novak Djokovic, a finalist at the recent Miami Masters, said that he did not have high expectations for the Monte Carlo Masters as he was suffering from the effects of an eye infection. Djokovic is a two-time winner in Monte Carlo. "It's obviously a completely different surface and I didn't have much time to get used to this tournament, so my expectations are not really high for the results here," he said.

Churchill finish on top but title fate on Apr 28

NEW DELHI: Churchill Brothers finished provisionally on top of the I-League table after a 1-1 draw against Real Kashmir FC in Srinagar on Sunday, but their wait for the title and a promotion to the ISL will hinge on the AIFF Appeal Committee's verdict later this month. Churchill (40) finished one point ahead of Inter Kashi (39), but the table could change if Inter Kashi are awarded three additional points from their protest.

FSDL threatens to expel Mohammedan

KOLKATA: Indian Super League organisers Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) has threatened to expel Mohammedan Sporting for the club's failure to meet the event's financial requirements. FSDL warned Mohammedan Sporting after two of their investors contemplated pulling out over pending share transfer issues, but the Kolkata club remained hopeful of resolving the crisis at the earliest.

World Boxing Cup: Indian boxers finish with six medals

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

THE Indian boxing contingent ended their campaign at the World Boxing Cup with an impressive haul of six medals, including a gold won by Hitesh, at Foz Do Iguacu in Brazil.

It's India's first-ever outing in an elite-level international meet organised by World Boxing. Hitesh became the first Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in the World Boxing Cup. His opponent Odel Kamara of England was injured and couldn't take to the ring in the 70kg final on Saturday. Abhinash Jamwal, the other Indian boxer to reach the final in the 65kg category, gave his best against local favourite Yuri Reis but could not do enough to get a favourable verdict and bagged a silver medal. Four Indians — Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin (60kg) and Vishal (90kg) — bagged bronze medals.

Abhinash Jamwal (L) & Hitesh | BFI

Japanese GP: Maiden win of 2025 for Verstappen

AFP @ Suzuka

FOUR-TIME world champion Max Verstappen led from pole to chequered flag to win the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday, his first victory of the 2025 season, with McLaren's Lando Norris second. The Dutch Red Bull driver crossed the finish line almost 1.5 seconds in front of Briton Norris, who held off his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri of Australia in third.

The win on a damp but drying track at Suzuka was Verstappen's fourth straight victory in Japan and closed the gap on Norris at the top of the drivers' championship to one point. Norris now has 62 points after three races, with Verstappen on 61 and Piastri third on 49. "It was tough. The McLarens were pushing me very hard," said Verstappen.

"It was a lot of fun but not easy pushing the tyres. I am incredibly happy. "Starting on pole made it possible to win." Verstappen and Norris were involved in a flashpoint midway through the race as the two frontrunners emerged from a pit stop. Norris drew alongside Verstappen but the Dutchman refused to budge and Norris was forced onto the grass before sliding back onto the track.

Stewards reviewed the incident and decided not to investigate further and Norris admitted later it was just part of racing. "Max is the last guy I expect to give me any space, in a good way, in a racing way," he said. Verstappen has struggled to get to grips with his Red Bull this season, finishing second in Australia and fourth in China. But he set a stunning pole lap and Red Bull team principal Christian Horner hailed the way Verstappen has kept the team in the title race. McLaren's double podium extended their lead in the constructors' title race to 36 points over Mercedes. McLaren have 111 points, Mercedes are second on 75 with Red Bull third on 61, all scored by Verstappen. Rookie Kimi Antonelli, 18, briefly took the mid-race lead while Verstappen and Norris were in the pits, to become F1's youngest-ever race leader.

RESULTS (TOP SIX): **1.** Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull), **2.** Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren), **3.** Oscar Piastri (AUS/McLaren), **4.** Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari), **5.** George Russell (GBR/Mercedes), **6.** Kimi Antonelli (ITA/Mercedes).

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Fulham win to halt Liverpool's title march

AFP @ Suzuka

Liverpool slumped to just their second Premier League defeat of the season as Fulham struck three times in 14 first-half minutes to boost their own European ambitions with a 3-2 win on Sunday.

Arsenal's 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday left Liverpool needing just 11 points from their final eight games to secure a record-equalling 20th English top-flight title.

Arne Slot's men were unbeaten in 26 league games and looked set to take another step towards the title when Alexis Mac Allister's stunning strike opened the scoring. But poor defending allowed Ryan Sessegnon, Alex Iwobi and Rodrigo Muniz to turn the game around for Fulham. Liverpool still enjoy an 11-point lead at the top with seven games remaining.

Victory lifts Fulham to eighth and within three points of the top five. Meanwhile, Manchester United and Manchester City played out a goalless draw at Old Trafford.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (R) reacts after missing a chance on Sunday | AP

Southampton relegated

Southampton were relegated in record-setting time after a 3-1 defeat at Tottenham ended their brief stay in the top-flight.

Results: Brentford **0-0** Chelsea; Fulham **3-2** Liverpool; Spurs **3-1** Southampton; Man Utd **0-0** Man City.

Liga leaders Barca held

MADRID: Barcelona failed to break down a frantic Real Betis defence as they were held to a 1-1 draw in La Liga on Saturday but still gained ground on Real Madrid who earlier lost 2-1 at home to Valencia. Barca moved four points ahead of Real atop La Liga. Both teams face Champions League first-leg ties this week, Real visit Arsenal on Tuesday and Barca play in Dortmund the following evening.

Chhetri scores late to put BFC in ISL final

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

FC GOA had done well to erase their first-leg deficit by scoring two goals within the regulation period against Bengaluru FC in the return leg of the Indian Super League semifinal in Margao on Sunday. But that proved to be in vain as veteran Sunil Chhetri scored in the dying seconds of the match to help Bengaluru record a 3-2 aggregate victory over the Gaurs. More importantly, Chhetri's strike helped the Blues, who had won the first leg 2-0, enter the final for a record fourth time.

Chhetri, who came off the bench in the 55th minute, scored a diving header after a delivery by defender Namgyal Bhutia into the box. The Bengaluru players' celebration said it all. Chhetri, who has been an influential figure for the club, could not have found a better time to make an impact. Goals from Borja Herrera (49') and Armando Sadiku (88') might have helped the home side win the tie, but it was Bengaluru who had the last laugh.

Bengaluru players celebrate Sunil Chhetri's (R) goal on Sunday | ISL

CHRONICLES OF IIT HYDERABAD

From secret hangouts and groundbreaking research to crazy campus tales and fun student awards — get an insider's look into IIT Hyderabad with Saumya Solanki

Alumni Spotlight

Manas Kala | Batch of 2015
CEO of Veritus

Uma Harathi | Batch of 2017
All India rank 3 in UPSC 2022

Apoorva Katragadda | Batch of 2017; Co-founder of Emerstat

Vipul Jindal | Batch of 2018
Managing Director and CEO, Next Bharat Venture

STUDENT'S VOICES

RISHI CHEEKATLA
PRESIDENT, STUDENTS' GYMKHANA

One of the most remarkable aspects of IITH is the open and frequent interaction between students and the director. This unique engagement ensures that

students' needs are heard and addressed, fostering a culture of continuous improvement. The institute's approach, with its world-class infrastructure, makes it a standout among IITs, offering an enriching experience. Academically, IITH provides everything one expects from a premier IIT, fostering an environment of learning and research. Its continuous evaluation system sets it apart, ensuring that students are assessed holistically rather than relying on a single exam.

GADE KESAVA MAHITHA
GENERAL SECRETARY, GYMKHANA

IITH pushes students to excel through its dynamic and demanding academic environment. The rigorous coursework,

combined with hands-on research and industry exposure, encourages intellectual growth and innovation. Balancing academics with extracurricular activities fosters time management and leadership skills. While the journey is intense, it nurtures adaptability, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Beyond studies, the campus is a hub of creativity, entrepreneurship, and vibrant student life. With a strong support system and endless opportunities, IITH isn't just a place to study — it's where we grow.

N ARJUN,
MEDIA & PR SECRETARY

With cutting-edge research, industry collaborations, and a thriving student community, IITH offers unparalleled networking opportunities. Managing

academics and responsibilities within Gymkhana has been a transformative experience, shaping my perspective on teamwork and strategic decision-making. The vibrant campus culture and forward-thinking approach make IITH exceptional. Studying at here offers a perfect blend of academics, research, and student-driven initiatives. The Knowledge Resource Center provides learning resources, while labs and industry collaborations enhance research.

SREEVAS,
CULTURAL & LITERARY SECRETARY

IITH isn't just an institute; it's a whole vibe. Late-night Maggi runs, chai-fueled debates, last-minute submissions, and cultural nights that never seem to end —

it's a rollercoaster we wouldn't trade for anything. The campus is a mix of chaos and creativity — labs buzzing with research while someone's jamming in the music room. Clubs, fests, and those random 2 am plans keep life unpredictable. Professors? Tough but solid. People? Crazy talented. Whether it's chasing deadlines or sunsets from the mess lawns, IITH shapes us in ways we never see coming. The best part of studying here is the wild mix of serious academics and a chill vibe.

tech power

"We wish to focus on Viksit Bharat through innovation-collaboration"

Prof BS Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, talks about infrastructure, sustainability, and interdisciplinary research on campus

How is IIT Hyderabad adapting its infrastructure and resources to accommodate the increasing student population while maintaining the quality of education and research?

IITH has a master plan to accommodate 20,000 students on its campus, while the current student strength stands at 5,300+. It is important to note that 60% of current IITH students are PhD+PG students, while the UG students are around 40%, clearly demonstrating its focus on research and technology development. IITH has built its campus, so far, on about 55 acre, while its total land is 600 acre, which surely indicates that it has ample space for future expansion.

IIT Hyderabad's emphasis on interdisciplinary research is evident with departments ranging from AI to Heritage Science. How does this diverse academic structure influence the institute's research output?

The commitment of IITH to interdisciplinary (ID) research is strengthened by the Center for ID Programs (CIP), established to foster collaboration across various disciplines. IITH not only offers ID programmes at the PG level but also at UG level, such as BTech in Engineering Sciences and BTech in Computational Engineering. Such a structure encourages innovative research.

How does IITH plan to expand its contributions to sustainable development, both locally and globally?

The institute has established the Greenko School of Sustainability, aiming to promote effective, net-zero, sustainable energy, and industrial transformation through education, research, technology, and entrepreneurial development.

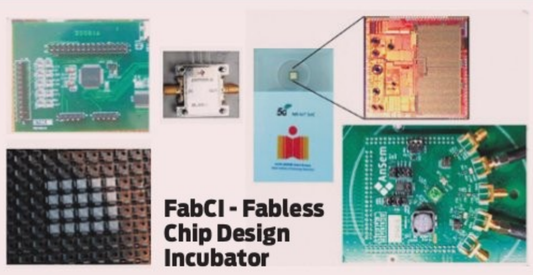
India's first MTech programme on Sustainable Engineering was started in 2023 by IITH. The IIT also has a unique Climate Change department, which offers an MTech programme in Climate Change.

R&D Hub

TiHAN: The research and development activities at TiHAN IIT Hyderabad focus on cutting-edge technologies in autonomous navigation, AI/ML applications, and smart mobility solutions.

Autonomous Navigation Testbed

TiHAN IIT Hyderabad has established a state-of-the-art testbed for autonomous navigation, both aerial and terrestrial. This facility includes proving grounds, mechanical integration facilities like hangers, ground control stations, and advanced simulation tools. The testbed supports thorough validation before real-field deployment, ensuring the highest standards of safety and performance.



FabCI - Fabless Chip Design Incubator

The Fabless Chip Design Incubator (FabCI) is a flagship programme being executed with the support of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It focuses on creating an ecosystem wherein primary activities are executed for any start-up in the area of chip design.

IIT Hyderabad's pioneering innovations in 5G & 6G puts India on the global tech map

The IIT has emerged as a global leader in 5G and 6G technology through its innovations, patents, and translational research. It has developed technologies including the ones that enhance wireless coverage with long-range connectivity, improve energy efficiency, and lower power consumption. It is on track to secure 10% of global 6G IPR by 2030.

Centre of Excellence AI

Project AiSwARYAM (AI for Sustainable Infrastructure and Resource Planning, Analysis and Monitoring) is led by Prof Srijith PK. To bridge the gap between urban governance and tools for infra and monitoring, an AI-driven tech stack is being developed that enables scalable, and cross-sectoral hotspot detection — from carbon footprint and mobility to pollution management.

Heritage Science and Technology (HST) at IIT Hyderabad, headed by **Dr Mohan Raghavan**, has recently undertaken several notable initiatives to preserve and promote India's rich cultural heritage. For example, the department facilitated a hands-on workshop for MTech students at the **Vaastu Vidya Gurukulam** located in Kerala.

What's coming up?

May 2025

SPIC MACAY 10th International Convention

THE Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPIC MACAY) is set to host its 10th International Convention at IIT Hyderabad from May 26 to June 1, 2025. This week-long cultural festival will bring together over 1,500 students and volunteers from across India and the world to experience Indian classical music, dance, and art. Renowned artists, including Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and Begum Parween Sultana, are slated to perform, offering participants an immersive experience in India's rich artistic heritage. The convention will also feature interactive sessions with notable personalities such as Javed Akhtar.

November 2025

Japan-India Science Forum to be held at IITH

INDIA'S relations with Japan continue to strengthen, with the Japan-India Science Forum serving as a key platform for collaboration between university leaders from both nations. Since its inception in Kyoto (2022), followed by Tokyo (2023) and Delhi (2024), the forum has fostered deep academic ties. IITH played a pivotal role last year, presenting and hosting 20 university officials on October 21, 2024. This year, IITH will host the 2025 edition on November 15, welcoming 20-30 presidents of Japanese universities. IITH's engagement has also led to the launch of the Joint Supervision Program, enabling Indian PhD students to conduct year-long research in Japan.

Placement trends from 2025

Office of Career Services (OCS) and its achievements

48 international offers from 15 companies

315+ COMPANIES

First phase done

600+ students offered jobs

Average package currently stands at ₹21.9 LPA

A ranking of campus life Highlights

- **Best hangout spot:** Café Coffee Day
- **Library spot:** Group tables on second floor
- **Craziest tradition:** B'day push-ups
- **Most Insta-worthy spot on campus:** IITH tower
- **Midnight hunger saviour:** Chai Amruth
- **Best time to be on campus:** Elan & nVision, the biggest fests of IITH
- **Best canteen dish:** Cold coffee from Shiru Cafe
- **Most competitive club/ society on campus:** Aquatics Team

Unwritten Rules: Lending ID cards to students for eating in any particular mess

Most mysterious spot: Cleared site opposite Oxygen Park

Rumours and superstitions: Fest trophies are kept in the Charaka room

Late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's Visit to IITH for the Foundation Day

Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind at IITH

Former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Dr C Rangarajan visited IITH on Foundation Day

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar at IITH

SCHOOL OF SUSTAINABLE SCIENCE

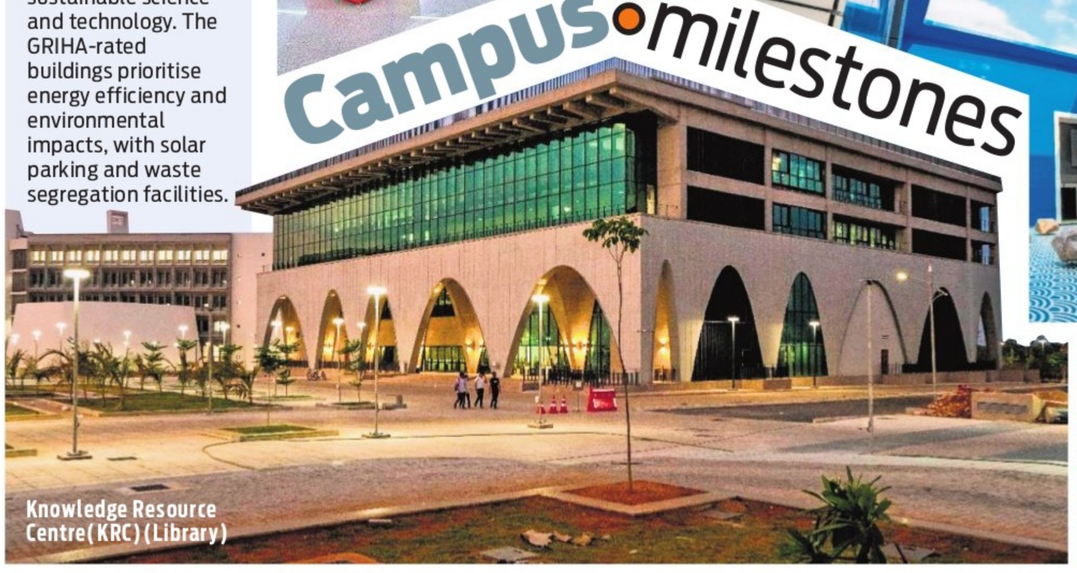
IIT Hyderabad's campus exemplifies energy-efficient, carbon-neutral, and sustainable architecture. In 2022, Greenko partnered with IITH to establish India's first school for sustainable science and technology. The GRIHA-rated buildings prioritise energy efficiency and environmental impacts, with solar parking and waste segregation facilities.

Library

Convention Centre

SHIRU CAFE

India's first Shiru Cafe, a Japanese chain by Enrission Inc, opened at IIT Hyderabad in April 2016, marking its first venture outside Japan. It offers free drinks to students in exchange for personal data. Fully funded by sponsors, it aims to ease students' transition to the workplace and expose them to global corporate culture through targeted advertising based on their profiles.



Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC) (Library)

Sports & cultural complex (SNCC)

Campus milestones

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

The Mission

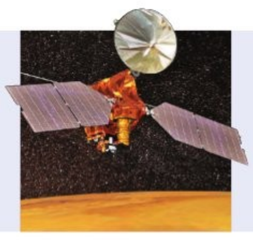
On this day, NASA launched their 2001 Mars Odyssey mission. It arrived on Mars on October 24 of the same year

IMPORTANCE

Measurements by Odyssey have helped scientists create maps of minerals and elements, identify regions with ice, and determine that the orbit is low in radiation

CHALLENGES

One of the spacecraft's instruments, the MARIE radiation experiment, stopped working in 2003, most likely because of a damaged computer chip



LEGACY

Still in space, it holds the record for the longest continually active spacecraft in orbit around a planet other than Earth

Try delicious dumplings in the city today

PG 2

On the occasion of World Health Day today, rethink good health as not just an absence of symptoms but as something to be actively checked, screened, and understood to keep silent diseases at bay

RISHITA KHANNA

Well, Well, Well...

WHAT we often call 'good health' is, at best, a guess – based mostly on how we feel. In the absence of discomfort, most people assume their bodies are functioning just fine. But this illusion of wellness can be misleading.

Several chronic and lifestyle-related conditions progress silently, without warning signs until the damage is underway. Relying on symptoms as the only indicator of illness, experts warn, is not safe. Today, on World Health Day, experts urge people to rethink this approach – to see health not just as the absence of symptoms, but as something to be actively checked, screened, and understood. "Health is often mistaken for the absence of discomfort. If there's no pain, no fatigue, no visible issue, we assume all is well. But this assumption, though comforting, is increasingly being challenged," says Dr Pooja Pillai, Consultant of Internal Medicine at Aster CMI Hospital, adding that especially non-communicable illnesses, develop and progress silently.

The body, complex as it is, can learn to function around problems, masking them until a tipping point. The idea that good health can only be judged by how we feel is outdated, Dr Pillai says, highlighting that today, we need to watch for, not just symptoms, but the things we can't feel or see. "Silent diseases thrive in this gap – between how healthy we think we are and what's really going on inside. Regular health screenings, blood tests, and preventive consultations are no longer optional, they are essential tools in catching problems before they spiral," she says.

Dr Sheela Chakravarthy, Director of Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital, stresses that feeling well does not always mean you are healthy. Many diseases develop silently with no obvious symptoms until they have progressed significantly. Dr Chakravarthy explains that conditions like hypertension, type 2 diabetes, certain cancers, kidney disease, or even HIV may remain completely asymptomatic. That means patients can go about their daily lives without realising anything is wrong. "In hypertension, your arteries may be under constant strain without you feeling a thing – until it results in a stroke, heart attack, or organ damage. Similarly, in diabetes, elevated blood sugar levels may cause slow damage to your nerves, kidneys, and eyes, long before any clear signs appear. This is why we refer to these conditions as 'silent' diseases – they cause harm gradually, without pain or warning signs early on," she says.

While feeling fine can be reassuring, doctors stress that it should not be the only measure of health. Quiet diseases are real and regular health checks are sometimes the only way to catch them early.

Regular health screenings, blood tests, and preventive consultations are no longer optional, they are essential tools in catching problems before they spiral

Dr Pooja Pillai, Consultant of Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital

We refer to these conditions as 'silent' diseases – they cause harm gradually, without pain or warning signs early on

Dr Sheela Chakravarthy, Director of Internal Medicine, Fortis Hospital

CITY READ

Organisation hosts autism awareness drive

India Autism Center, a non-profit organisation, in collaboration with Ishanya India Foundation, hosted Ride for Autism Awareness on April 1 led by **Aishwarya Pissay**, India's first woman to win a world motorsport title. The event was held in honour of World Autism Awareness Month and World Health Day, bringing together more than 50 neurodivergent individuals, riders, families, and allies. "Riding has always been my way of breaking barriers and this ride is about more than just wheels and speed – it's about inclusion, understanding, and support," said Pissay.

Free biomarker testing for lung cancer patients

LuNGS Alliance, an initiative led by the Cancer Research and Statistic Foundation (CRSF), recently announced free Lung NGS (Next Generation Sequencing) biomarker testing for lung cancer patients across India. This initiative is backed by pharmaceutical companies AstraZeneca, Pfizer, and Roche, with 4baseCare serving as their official lab partner. By offering zero-cost biomarker testing, LuNGS Alliance aims to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent patients from receiving advanced cancer treatment. For more information, call 1800 202 2455.

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WORLD HEALTH DAY

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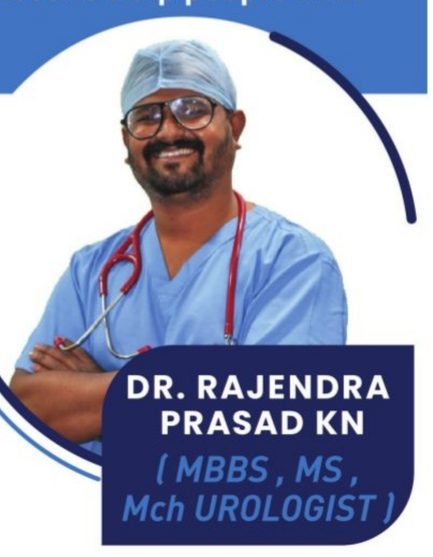

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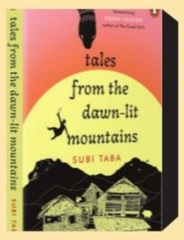
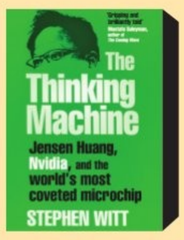
BOOK NOOK



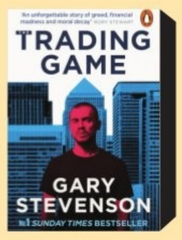
Tales From the Dawn-Lit Mountains
by Subi Taba

An escape to Arunachal Pradesh, it features stories of visceral observation and a delicate understanding of the ethnic communities living under shadows of magic and realism in the isolated hinterlands of the state.



The Thinking Machine
by Stephen Witt

How did Nvidia go from a Denny's booth to a Silicon Valley powerhouse? Journalist Stephen Witt reveals how CEO Jensen Huang's bold vision turned Nvidia from a video game component maker into the world leader in AI hardware.



Trading Game
by Gary Stevenson

What happens when winning starts to feel like losing? This is an outrageous, unvarnished, white-knuckle journey to the dark heart of an intoxicating world – from someone who survived the game.

Death At The White Hart
by Chris Chibnall

When Detective Nicola Bridge moves back to Dorset from the big city, the last thing she expects is for the picturesque village of Fleetcombe to become a grisly crime scene. She soon realises everyone in the village has something to hide. And somewhere among them, a killer is hiding.

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Savour the Summer

Satisfy your cravings relishing a summer menu with fish and chips, loaded fiesta nachos stacked high with zesty toppings, and signature cocktails. Enjoy games from arcade classics to bowling matches that will be perfect for some friendly competition.

WHEN: April 7 onwards, 12pm
WHERE: Dave & Buster's, Koramangala
CALL: 98671 35705

Evening of Poetry

Gather around for an evening of poetry at a venue that offers poetry readings over delicacies like sandwiches, pasta, and salads. Experience the works of **Henry al-Muthanna**, a Serbian-American poet based in the city as he performs them live for you.

WHEN: April 8, 7.30pm
WHERE: Urban Solace, Ulsoor
CALL: 98450 13055

Taste the Heat

Indulge in a fiery dining experience with a limited-edition menu that packs bold flavours and rich smokiness with signature sauces. The menu includes spicy sushi rolls, fiery dumplings, and sizzling small plates – perfect for anyone who loves a little heat or smoky taste.

WHEN: Until April 15, 12pm
WHERE: Foo, Bridge Road
CALL: 97420 44747

Creative Camp

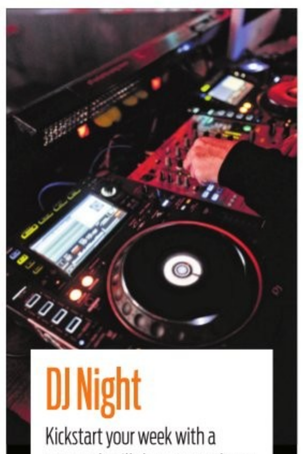
Enrol your little ones for a fun summer of dance, art, gymnastics, and theatre. Unleash their creative potential at this workshop that promises to help them develop new skills while making lasting memories in a supportive and enriching environment.

WHEN: April 7, 9am
WHERE: Lourd Vijay's Dance Studio, Indiranagar
CALL: 98452 39123

Songs on Strings

Unleash your inner rockstar with this one-hour guitar lesson where you can learn about scales and octaves, basic exercises, strumming styles, and more. With a fun and interactive guided session, enjoy playing your favourite songs on the beloved instrument!

WHEN: April 8, 5.30pm
WHERE: Casa Karaoke, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



DJ Night

Kickstart your week with a groove that'll chase away those Monday night blues with a DJ night that features cocktails and mocktails for your refreshment. Take your friends to this event and rock the dance floor with your favourite Bollywood tunes!

WHEN: April 7, 8pm
WHERE: Ottoman Restobar, Bellandur
DETAILS: highape.com

Just for Laughs

Come down with friends, family, random strangers, or by yourself for a funny evening as these city-based comedians try to crack you up with their jokes. This event promises to give you a stand-up comedy night that you'll remember.

WHEN: April 7, 9pm
WHERE: Bistro Claytopia, Koramangala
DETAILS: district.in

SOUND OF ART

Students from Government Arts College perform at Hejje Gejje Dance Studio, Bilekahalli, during a cultural programme held in the city | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

QUICKFIX

DRAGON FRUIT SQUASH

INGREDIENTS

- **Sugar:** 150 g
- **Lemon:** 1 piece
- **Dragon fruit:** 150 g
- **Water:** 50 ml

METHOD

- Boil sugar and water until it turns syrupy.
- Separate the seeds from the dragon fruit and blend into a pulp.
- Add the pulp to the sugar syrup.
- Squeeze the lemon into the mixture. Enjoy!

Contributed by **Shwetha S Yazhini,** Bengaluru

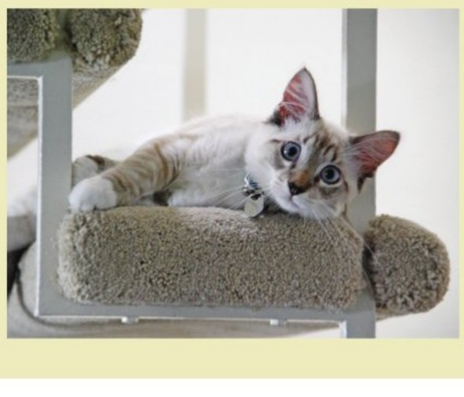
DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

ASK AN XPERT

My 7-month-old mixed breed kitten is approaching sexual maturity. At what age should cats be spayed/ neutered, and how important is this procedure?

Spaying or neutering is typically recommended for kittens around 5-6 months old, before they reach sexual maturity, which usually happens between 6-9 months. This procedure is important for several reasons, including preventing unwanted pregnancies, reducing the risk of certain health problems (such as uterine infections or testicular cancer), and helping manage behavioural issues like aggression or roaming. It also plays a key role in controlling the pet population. For the best advice on timing, to address safety concerns and allay fear of general anaesthesia, it's a good idea to consult with your vet.



CLASSIFIEDS

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

I, DHANANJAIAH BELLUR THIMMAIAH, S/o THIMMAIAH, resident of Ramamani Nagar, Bellur Village, Narasapura PO, Kolar 563133, have changed my name from **DHANANJAIAH BELLUR THIMMAIAH** to **DHANANJAYA BELLUR THIMMAIAH** vide affidavit Dated 04/04/2025 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

I, C.L. NARAYANA S/o late Chennakrishnappa, age 86 years, R/at No. 88, LIC HFL Care Homes, Kuduregere Road, Madayanakanahalli, Bengaluru-562 162 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **C.L. NARAYANA, C.L. NARAYAN, NARAYANA .C.L, CHENNAKRISHNAPPA LAKSHMI NARAYANA, CHENNAKRISHNAPPA LAKSHMI NARAYAN, LAKSHMI NARAYAN CHANNAKRISHNAPPA** and **LAKSHMI NARAYAN CHANNA KRISHNAPPA** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 2nd April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. VENKATASUBBA REDDY** at Bangalore.

I, **RAVI KANTH KANDOTI** (New Name), previously called **KANDOTI SATYA PAVANA CHIDAMBARA RAVI KANTH** (Old Name), S/o Kandoti Venkata Krishna Rao, aged about 33 years, R/at C-106, Grandeur Park, Sorahunase Main Road, Varthur, Bangalore-560 087, Karnataka, India. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'KANDOTI SATYA PAVANA CHIDAMBARA RAVI KANTH'** to **"RAVI KANTH KANDOTI"**, vide Affidavit dated 05.04.2025, Sworn before Advocate & Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

I, **GANAPATI ALLAPURE**, aged about 31 years, S/o. Shivaraj, residing to Near Bomgondeshwar Temple, Koudgaon, Bidar District, Karnataka State, India, today at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GANAPATI** to **GANAPATI ALLAPURE**, vide affidavit dated 05.04.2025, sworn to before B.R. Shashikala, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I. M.NARASIMHA BHAT, aged about 86 years, S/o. Late. M. Ramanatha Bhat, residing at No.6, 14th Main, 2nd Stage, 2nd Phase, West of Chord Road, Mahala kshmipuram, Bengaluru - 560086, I declare that below mentioned All the names **M.NARASIMHA BHAT, MANJESHWAR NARASIMHA BHAT, M.N.BHAT, NARASIMHA BHAT** and **BHAT.M.N** belongs and referred to one person only i.e., **M.NARASIMHA BHAT.,** vide affidavit dated 5/4/2025 sworn to before R.Raghunath Rao Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

I, BHARATHI residing at NARAYANASWAMY MALIMAKANAPURA BANGALORE RURAL 72 KARNATAKA 562122, have changed my name from **BHARATHI KRISHNAPPA MALLIMAKANAPURA to BHARATHI** vide affidavit dated: 05.04.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Devaraja E, Bengaluru.

I, SONI GUPTA spouse of **Army No7786286P** Rank-NK(MP) Name: Gyan Chandra Gupta R/a CMP Center and School, Bangalore- 25, have changed my name from SONI GUPTA to **SONY GUPTA** vide Affidavit dt: 05-04-2025 before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, R. SARASWATHI, W/o Late Ramesha, aged about 45 years, R/at No. 792, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Badavane, KEB Road, Magadi Main Road, Anjananagara, Herohalli, Viswaneedam Post, Bangalore-91 do hereby declare that my correct name is **R. SARASWATHI,** but in my daughter by name **YASHASWINI .R** birth certificate and educational records, my name is wrongly mentioned as **SARASWATHY** instead of **R. SARASWATHI,** vide affidavit dated 5th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T. MALLIKARJUNA** at Bangalore.

I, **GIRIJA** alias **GIRIJA S. MANJA,** D/o. H.K. Raghavendra Rao and W/o. K. Srinivasa Manja, residing at No. 253, 7th C Main, Narayana Nagar, 2nd Block, Doddakallasandra Post, Bengaluru South-560062, Karnataka State, do hereby declare that **GIRIJA** alias **GIRIJA S. MANJA** is the name of the same person and that is myself, now I have changed my name to **GIRIJA S. MANJA**, vide affidavit dated 04.04.2025, sworn to before H.S. Dharma Prasad, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I, **INDERCHAND DEVICHAND BHANDARI** S/o Late DEVICHAND aged about 66 years r/a no.458, 1 st floor 7th main 4th block Jayanagar Bangalore -560011. In my passport & in some records my name is entered as **INDERCHAND & BHANDARI** & in Election ID card **INDER D BHADARI.** All the three names belongs to me only. In future for all official purposes my name will be **INDERCHAND DEVICHAND BHANDARI** only vide affidavit dt 05-04-2025 & Sworn before Advocate & Notary Mamatha N.K.Bangalore, INDIA.

We, SAMPATH KUMAR. L aged about 36 years and **AMRUTHA** aged 29 years, residing at No. 660/J, 2nd Main Road, 3rd Cross, Ranganathapura, Kamakshipalya, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore - 560079, have changed our minor daughter's name from **BENISHA** to **BENISHA. S,** vide affidavit dated 10/12/2024 sworn to before C.K.Anupama Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

I, BHAURAJ M TELI, AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS, S/O. M S TELI, RESIDING AT NO. 1737/B, HUGAR GALLI, NEAR OLD TMC, ATHANI, BELAGAVI, KARNATAKA 591304, have changed my name from **BHAURAJ TELI TO BHAURAJ M TELI** vide affidavit dated: 05.04.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Smt. A. MANJULA, Bengaluru.

I, RAGINI spouse of **Army No7786948M** Rank-L/Nk Name: Sunil Sindal R/a CMP Center and School, Bangalore-25, have changed my name from RAGINI to **RAGINI SINDAL** vide Affidavit dt: 05-04-2025 before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, MUFEEDA MAHMOOD KHAN, W/o Mahmood Khan, age 69 years, R/at No. 52, 3rd Cross, Marappa Garden, Jayamahal Extension, Benson Town Post, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 046 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MUFEEDA BEGUM** to **MUFEEDA MAHMOOD KHAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MUFEEDA MAHMOOD KHAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 5-4-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **P.N. NAGESHA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **KAMLESH KUMAR SINGH,** S/o Gaya Prasad Singh, Resident of Qtr.No. KD-203 Sindri, Back of Sindri Town Station, P.S. Sindri, Dist. Dhanbad, Jharkhand. I state that in my daughter Educational Documents her name is mentioned as **NEHA** and somewhere as **NEHA SINGH,** I hereby declare that the names **NEHA** and **NEHA SINGH** are one and the same and belongs to same person, vide affidavit dated 09.10.2020 sworn before Smt. Hemlata, Advocate. Dhanbad.

I, MURALIDHARA KEDLAYA HERGA (New Name), residing at Flat NO.O-2404, 24th Floor, Block -5, Mantry Serenity Apartment, Doddakallasandra, Off. Kanakapura Road, Bangalore-560062, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from **MURALIDHARA KEDILAYA H** and **MURALIDHARA KEDLAYA H** and **MURALIDHARAN KEDALYA (Old Names)** to **MURALIDHARA KEDLAYA HERGA (New Name),** Henceforth I shall be known and called as **MURALIDHARA KEDLAYA HERGA (New Name)** only for all purposes, vide Affidavit dated : 05/04/2025, before Notary ARAVIND PATIL G.G., Bangalore.

I, Radhakrishnan, aged about 87 years, S/o. Mr. Late Sankarapillai, R/at #280, A-Block, AECS Layout, Kundanahalli, Doddanekkundi, Bangalore North, Bangalore 560037, Karnataka, India, I have changed my name from **RADHAKRISHNAN** to **RADHAKRISHNAN SANKARAPILLAI** vide affidavit dated 04.04.2025 sworn before advocate and notary, Indira S.S Bangalore.

I, GOURI TUPPAD, Wife of BHAURAJ M TELI, resident of 2819/2, VASANT THETAR ROAD JAMKHANDI NEAR NANDIKESHWAR TEMPLE GADAD GALLI JAMKHANDI-KA-587301, have changed my name to **GOURAVVA TUPPAD to GOURI TUPPAD** vide affidavit dated: 05.04.2025 sworn before advocate and notary Smt. A. MANJULA, Bengaluru.

I, **CHETANA SINGARI GOWDA ARAKANAKERE,** W/o Sundeep Subbarau, age 52 years, R/at No. C116, Sterling Residency, Dollars Colony, Bangalore North, RMV Extension 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 094 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **CHETANA .A.S** to **CHETANA SINGARI GOWDA ARAKANAKERE,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **CHETANA SINGARI GOWDA ARAKANAKERE** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 4-4-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

We, **MANOJ M. KULKARNI** S/o. Madhavrao and **MANDARA M.KULKARNI,** Both R/at No. 104. Arise Cross Woods Apartment, Jambusavari Dinne, Near Brooks Heaven Layout, J.P. Nagar 8th Phase, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, have changed our Son's name to **MAYANK KULKARNI,** vide Affidavit Dated 05/04/2025 sworn before Notary **Sri. Ambreshappa** at Bangalore.

I, **ANANDAKUMAR .K.V**, Son of Sri. Venkataramaiah .L, Aged about 37 years, residing at No. 70, Koramangala Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District - 562 110, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **BHUVAN** to **ANANDAKUMAR .K.V** vide affidavit dated 04.04.2025 sworn to before M.S. Satish, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

I, **YUVARAJ. S,** S/o. Sateesha, aged about 26 years resident at Vajarahalli Village, Hulikunte Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District - 572135 now at Bangalore, have changed my name from **THIMMARAJU V.S** to **YUVARAJ S,** vide affidavit dated 3/4/2025 sworn to before Aruna.V Advocate and Notary Bangalore

I, Arshdeep Kaur Ahuja, resident of 702, C-wing, S V SIGNATURE, ITPL MAIN ROAD, HOODI, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560048 have changed my name to **ARSHDEEP KAUR** for all future purposes. Affidavit dated 04-04-2025 sworn before advocate and notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

I, **KAVITHA K** R/o: Flat No. TF 02, Elegant Valley, B block, Third Floor, BEML 3rd Stage, Gattigere, Near Global Academy College, R R Nagar, Bangalore -560098. I have changed my name after marriage from **KAVITHA K (Old Name) To KAVITHA ARAVIND (New Name)** Vide affidavit Dated: 04-04-2025 sworn before Notary Ravi at Kengeri

I, VIJAY SHANKAR JANAKIRAM, s/o Janakiram, age 54 years, R/at No. S-3, 2nd Floor, S.S. Residency, Near Akai Public School, Nagashettyhalli, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 094 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VIJAY SHANKER** to **VIJAY SHANKAR JANAKIRAM,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VIJAY SHANKER to VIJAY SHANKAR JANAKIRAM** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 05-04-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

I, SYED ABDUL RAHIMAN is the legal son of Service no. 822252 H, Rank - NC(E), Name- Sayed Khajavali, residing at Command Hospital Air Force, Agram Post, Bangalore-560 007 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SYED ABDUL RAHIMAN** to **SAYED ABDUL RAHMAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SAYED ABDUL RAHMAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 05-04-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LEELA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Mr. Bharath .A**, Son of Ashwath Narayana, Aged about 22 years, R/at Rathnamma Building, Near Old Water Tank, Medahalli, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 049, hereby declare that my initial as **'A'** instead of **'N'** and my father name is **Ashwath Narayana** instead of **Narayana** and I hereby directed to rectify the same in the all education records. pursuant to the Judgement and Decree dated 11.03.2025, in O.S. No. 1374/2019 passed by Sri. Nagaraja .S, I Addl. Civil Judge Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru.

I, **Brunda .K.S,** W/o. N.R. Keshava Murthy, and D/o. Sripathi .K.N, aged about 35 years, residing at Flat No. 104, G.R. Templeton Apartment, Varsharuthu Road, Hanumantha Nagar, Bengaluru-560019, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Brunda.K.S** to **Shruthi Keshav.K.S**, vide affidavit dated 05.04.2025, sworn to before V. Rangaraju, Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

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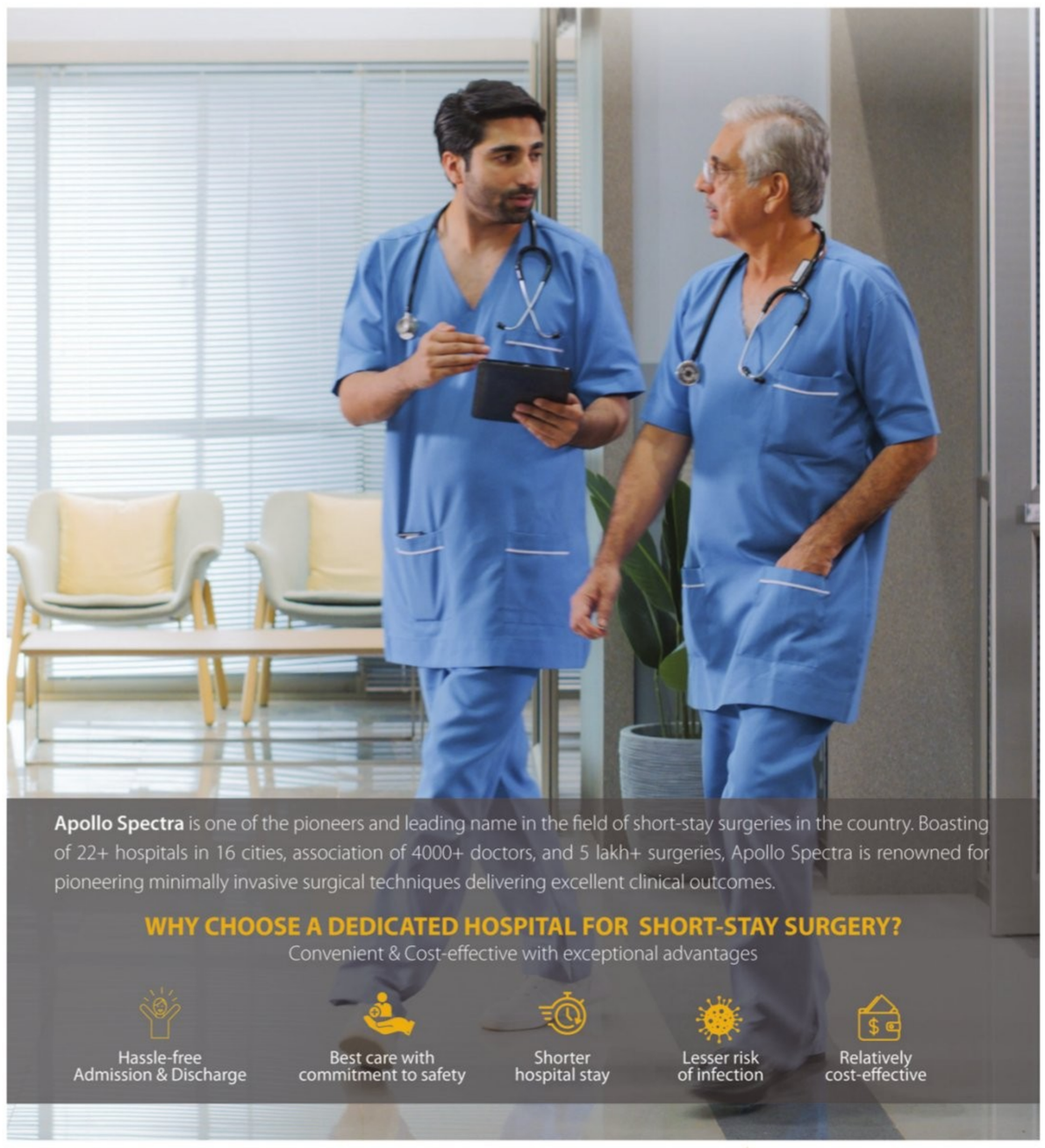

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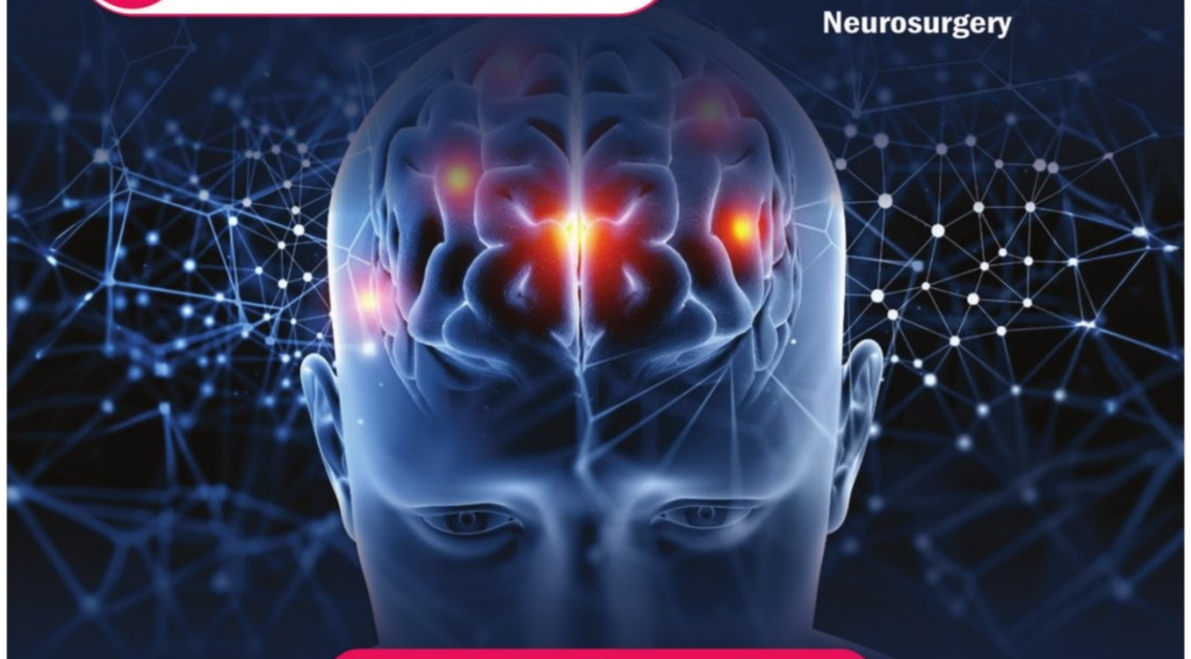

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World Health Day, a global observance spearheaded by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that kicks off a year-long campaign dedicated to improving maternal and newborn health, has taken the theme, "Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures" for this year. The initiative seeks to eliminate preventable maternal and newborn deaths and ensure the long-term health and well-being of women and children worldwide.

Karnataka has long struggled with significant maternal and newborn health challenges. In the past five years alone, the state has reported over 3,350 maternal deaths. Although the numbers have been steadily decreasing, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) still stands at 64 deaths per one lakh live births as of 2024. In the Kalyana Karnataka region—comprising districts like Kalaburagi and Ballari—the situation is especially concerning, with around 150 maternal and 2,250 newborn deaths reported annually.

One of the most glaring disparities in Karnataka's healthcare system is the stark contrast between government and private hospitals. While private facilities tend to offer better outcomes, government hospitals bear the brunt of the crisis. In the months between August and November 2024, government hospitals accounted for 179 maternal deaths, significantly higher than the 38 fatalities reported in private healthcare institutions. This disparity points to critical issues in the public healthcare sector, including staff shortages, inadequate equipment, and overburdened facilities.

Complications such as postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) and amniotic fluid embolism (AFE) are among the leading causes of maternal deaths in Karnataka. These conditions require immediate and effective medical intervention, underscoring the urgent need for better emergency obstetric care. Many public healthcare facilities are ill-equipped to manage such emergencies, highlighting the need for systemic improvements.

Karnataka's newborn mortality rates remain troublingly high, particularly in regions like Kalyana Karnataka. Approximately 2,250 newborns die annually in this region alone. Contributing factors include inadequate antenatal care, a shortage of skilled birth attendants, and insufficient postnatal support. These gaps in care continue to result in unnecessary and preventable deaths, underscoring the urgency of comprehensive reforms.

The World Health Day campaign for 2025 emphasises the need for healthy pregnancies, quality childbirth care, and improved postnatal health. In line with these objectives, the campaign calls for heightened awareness, investment in healthcare infrastructure, and more robust healthcare policies. Karnataka, with its challenges in maternal and newborn health, is poised to benefit significantly from these global efforts.

One of the campaign's main pillars is raising awareness about maternal and newborn health. This can be achieved through global conferences, local community programs, and social media outreach, empowering women with the knowledge and resources to make informed healthcare decisions.

Healthcare Infrastructure: A critical component of the campaign is improving healthcare infrastructure. This includes increasing access to skilled birth attendants and strengthening emergency obstetric care services. For Karnataka, this means addressing the systemic weaknesses within government hospitals and ensuring that women, particularly in rural areas, have access to quality care.

Policy Reforms: The campaign also advocates for policy reforms aimed at ensuring equitable access to healthcare services, especially for marginalized populations. In Karnataka, such reforms could help bridge the healthcare gap between urban and rural areas, providing all women with the care they deserve.

In response to the maternal and newborn health crisis, the Karnataka government has been implementing several health programmes aimed at reducing mortality rates. These include efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure, train healthcare workers, and provide better access to essential services in underserved regions.

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community groups are also playing a vital role in promoting maternal and newborn health. By offering support services, such as prenatal and postnatal care, as well as advocating for better healthcare access, these organizations are helping to bridge gaps where the government may fall short.

As the world unites to support this global initiative, Karnataka's efforts will play a pivotal role in realising the vision of healthy beginnings and hopeful futures. By leveraging the momentum of this campaign and continuing to build on local initiatives, Karnataka can take significant steps toward a healthier, more equitable future for its women and children.

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